DELL

JUNE-AUG.
NO. 997

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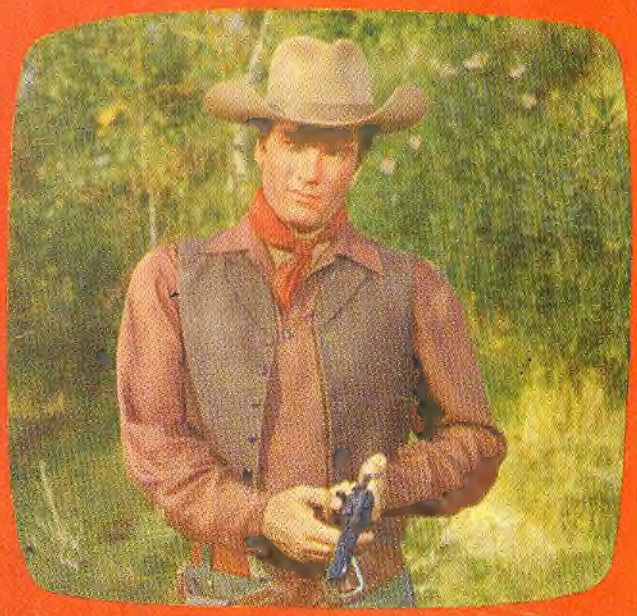
WALT DISNEY PRESENTS

The Nine Lives of ELFEGO BACA

"The man they couldn't kill"



Tales of TEXAS JOHN SLAUGHTER

"How his six guns brought law to frontier America"

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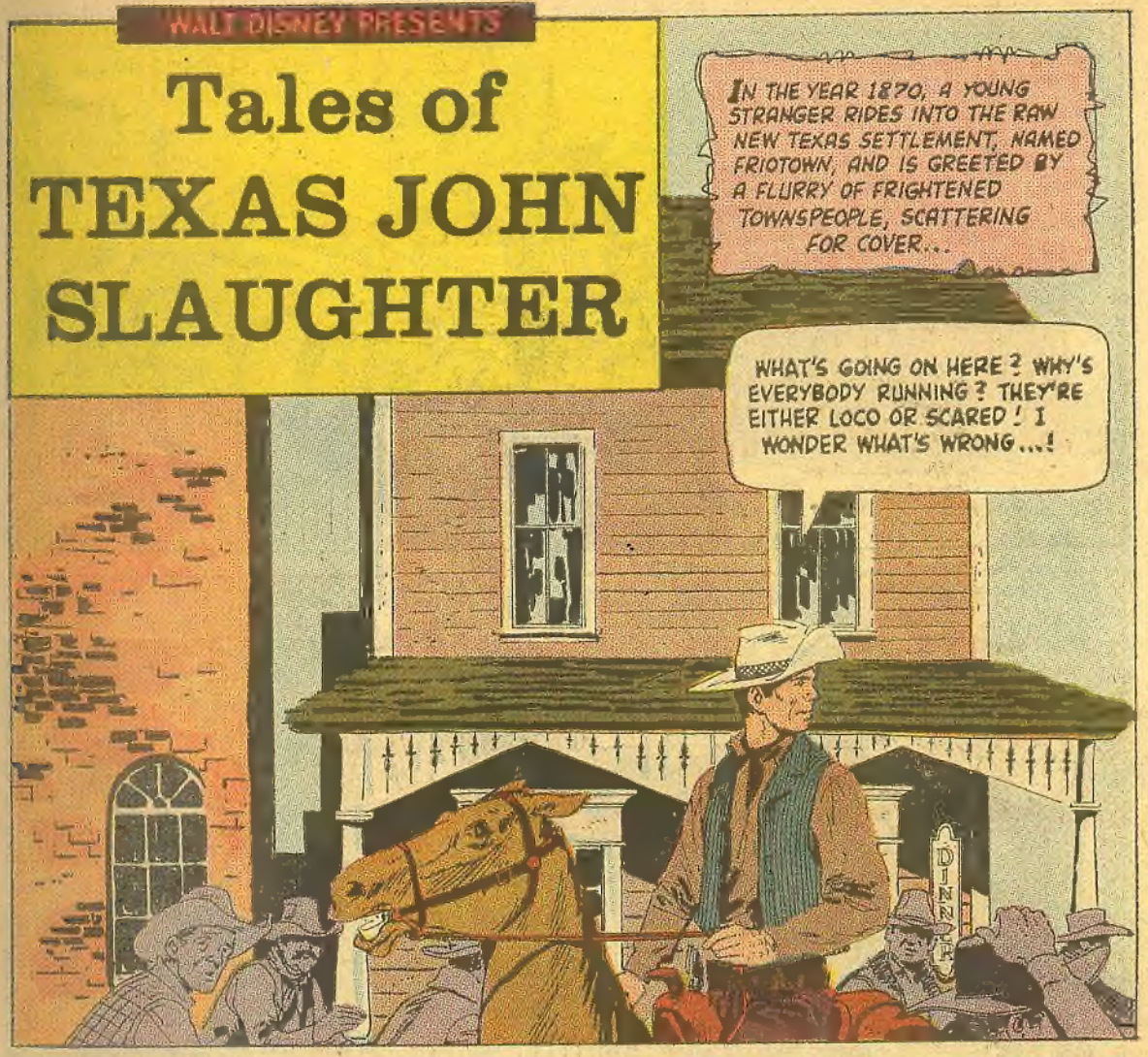
"**AS** settlers moved west, they brought with them rifles—like the one I'm holding. They used them well — to provide food for their families and to protect their homes. But, with the honest frontiersman came others—those who used their firearms to rob, molest, and kill—and even worse, as weapons of threat, instilling fear and forcing men to yield to tyranny.

"There are heroes who emerge from such situations and times . . . courageous men, whose acts of daring will always be remembered . . . men like **TEXAS JOHN SLAUGHTER** and **ELFEGO BACA.**"

WALT DISNEY PRESENTS

Tales of TEXAS JOHN SLAUGHTER



WALT DISNEY PRESENTS, No. 997, June-August, 1959. Published by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 750 Third Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. George T. Delacorte, Jr., Publisher; Helen Meyer, President; Paul R. Lilly, Executive Vice-President; Harold Clark, Vice-Pres.-Advertising Director; Albert P. Delacorte, Treasurer. All rights reserved throughout the world. Nothing herein contained to be reproduced without permission of Walt Disney Productions. Printed in U.S.A. Designed and produced by Western Printing & Lithographing Co. Copyright, © 1959, by Walt Disney Productions.

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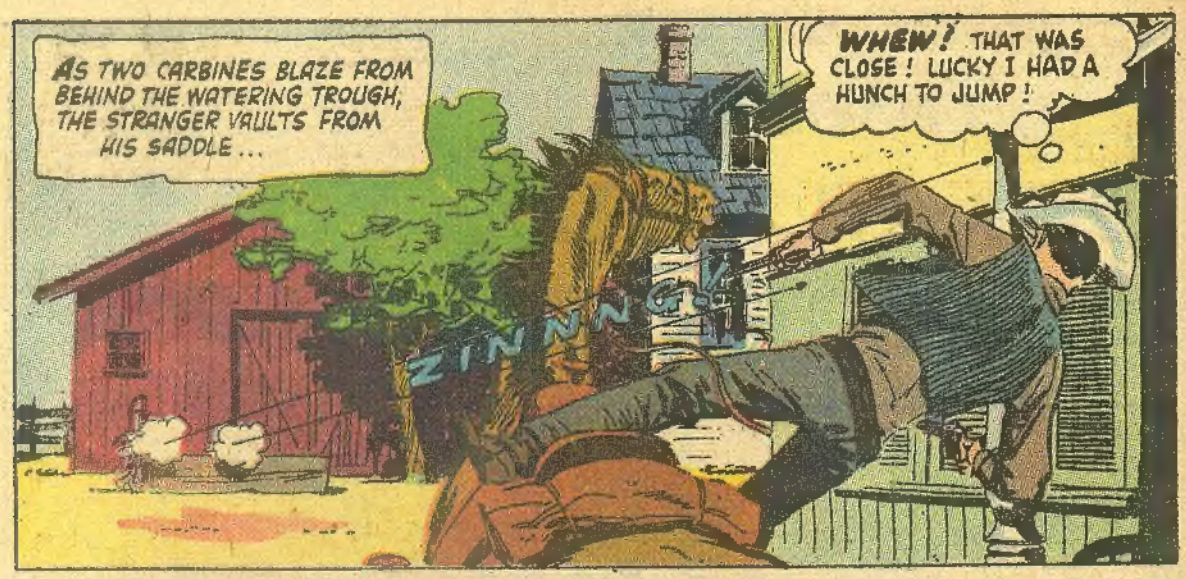
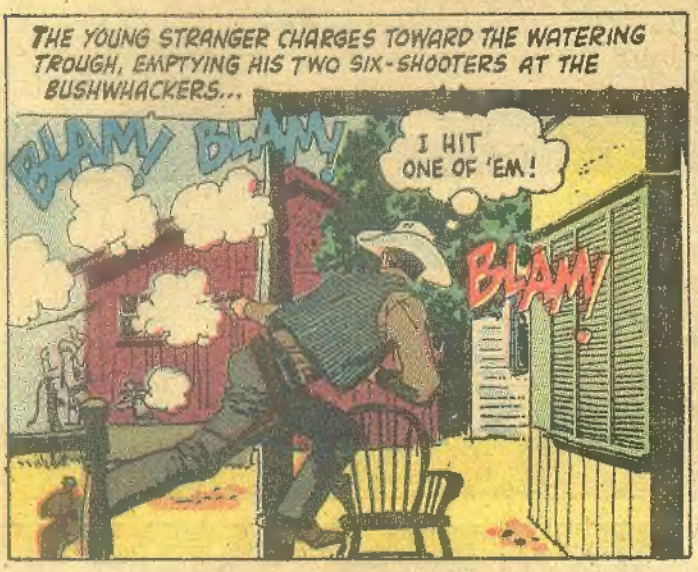
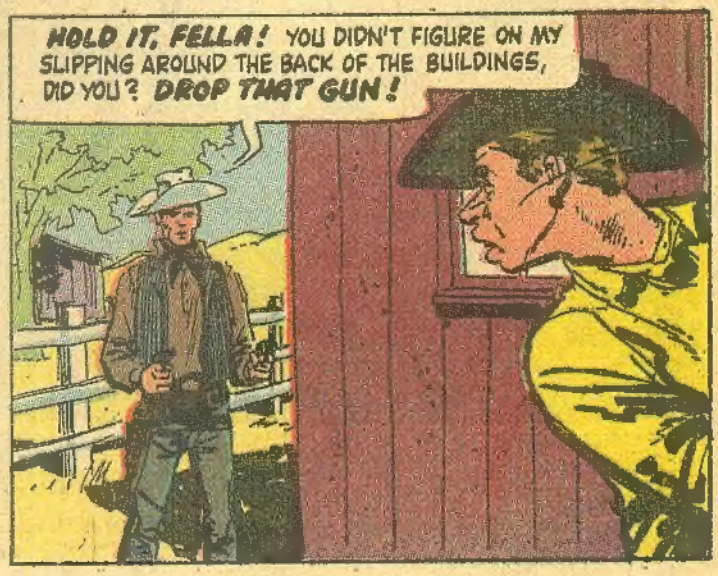

AS TWO CARBINES BLAZE FROM BEHIND THE WATERING TROUGH, THE STRANGER VAULTS FROM HIS SADDLE ...
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE! LUCKY I HAD A HUNCH TO JUMP!
ZINNNG!

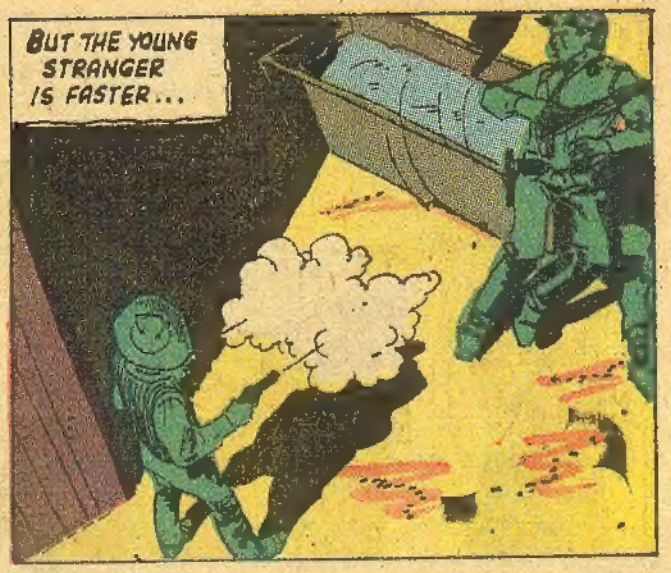

THE YOUNG STRANGER CHARGES TOWARD THE WATERING TROUGH, EMPTYING HIS TWO SIX-SHOOTERS AT THE BUSHWHACKERS...
BLAM!
BLAM!
I HIT ONE OF 'EM!
BLAM!

THEN, DODGING BEHIND THE CORNER OF A BUILDING, HE RELOADS HIS GUN...

I'LL GET HIM AS SOON AS HE STEPS OUT OF COVER!


HOLD IT, FELLA! YOU DIDN'T FIGURE ON MY SLIPPING AROUND THE BACK OF THE BUILDINGS, DID YOU? DROP THAT GUN!

THE BUSHWHACKER SWINGS HIS CARBINE IN A LAST DESPERATE TRY...

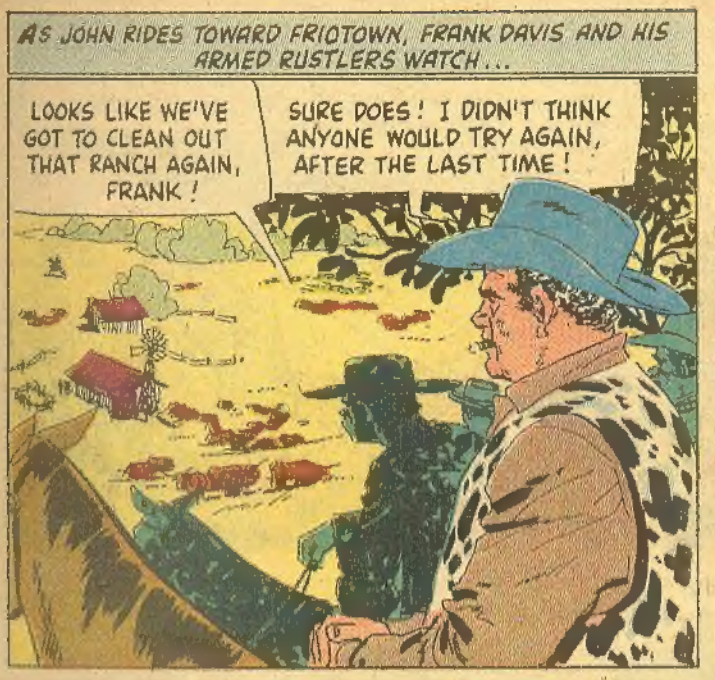

BUT THE YOUNG STRANGER IS FASTER...

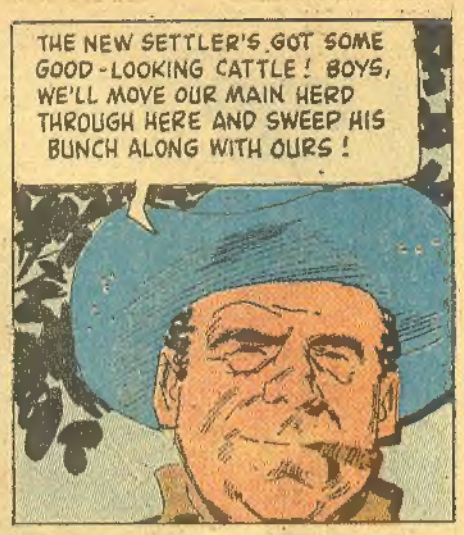
SUDDENLY, THE STREET IS FILLED WITH SMILING, FRIENDLY PEOPLE...
WELCOME TO FRIOTOWN, YOUNG MAN! I'M THE MAYOR! THE WHOLE TOWN IS GRATEFUL TO YOU!
WHO ARE THESE MEN? WHY WERE THEY OUT FOR ME?
THEY'RE THE OUTLAWS WHO KILLED THE SHERIFF! THAT'S WHY WE SENT FOR YOU!

YOU SENT FOR ME?
WE DECIDED ONLY A RANGER COULD HANDLE THOSE TWO GUNSLINGERS! AND WE CERTAINLY WERE RIGHT!

NO! YOU WERE WRONG! I'M THE RANGER YOU SENT FOR! MY NAME'S BEN JENKINS, COMPANY F!
THEN WHO ARE YOU?
I'M JOHN SLAUGHTER! JUST BOUGHT A SPREAD NEAR HERE, AND I AIM TO BE A CATTLEMAN!

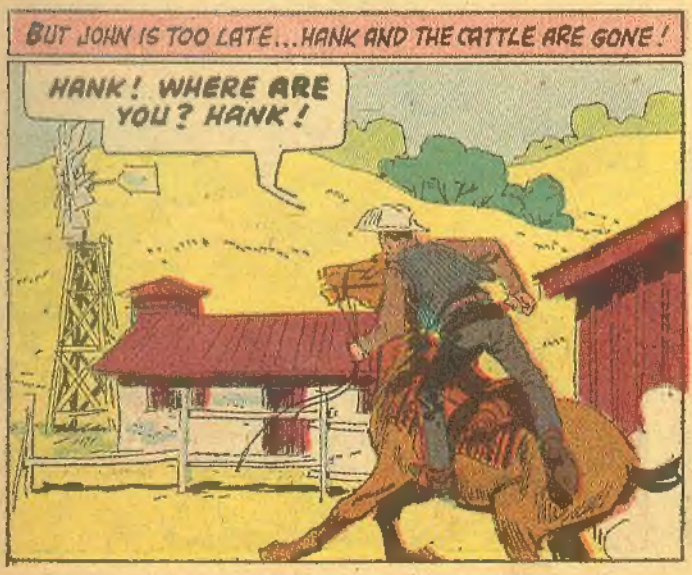
BUT...WHY'RE YOU WEARING THAT WHITE HAT?
I LIKE IT! WHY...WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
NOTHING...EXCEPT THAT WHITE HATS HAVE BEEN THE TRADE-MARK OF THE TEXAS RANGERS SINCE THE GOVERNOR REORGANIZED US LAST SPRING!
THANKS FOR DOING MY JOB! THE RANGERS NEED MEN LIKE YOU! EVER THINK OF JOINING?
NO, THANKS! I'M PLANNING TO MARRY AND SETTLE DOWN ON MY RANCH!
THIS IS OUTLAW COUNTRY, JOHN! IF YOU WANT TO SETTLE HERE, YOU'D BETTER HELP THE RANGERS BRING LAW AND ORDER FIRST! HONEST RANCHERS AREN'T SAFE NOW!
I THINK I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, BEN!
THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY... BUT GOOD LUCK! ONLY, IF YOU EVER CHANGE YOUR MIND, WE'RE CAMPED OUTSIDE FOWLERTON!
BULLS EYE CAFE
A WEEK LATER, JOHN, A HIRED HAND, AND A HUNDRED HEAD OF CATTLE ARE SETTLED ON JOHN'S RANCH...
I SAW STRANGERS AGAIN ON THE WEST RANGE, HANK! THEY LIT OUT WHEN I RODE TOWARD THEM! THINK I'D BETTER GET TO TOWN AND BUY TWO SHOTGUNS!
GOOD IDEA! THEN WE'LL BE READY IF THEY TRY ANY SHENANIGANS!


AS JOHN RIDES TOWARD FRIOTOWN, FRANK DAVIS AND HIS ARMED RUSTLERS WATCH...
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT TO CLEAN OUT THAT RANCH AGAIN, FRANK!
SURE DOES! I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE WOULD TRY AGAIN, AFTER THE LAST TIME!


THE NEW SETTLER'S GOT SOME GOOD-LOOKING CATTLE! BOYS, WE'LL MOVE OUR MAIN HERD THROUGH HERE AND SWEEP HIS BUNCH ALONG WITH OURS!

LATER, IN THE GENERAL STORE IN FRIOTOWN...
YOU'RE THE FIFTH OWNER YOUR RANCH HAS HAD IN FIVE YEARS, SLAUGHTER!
THE FIFTH! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS?

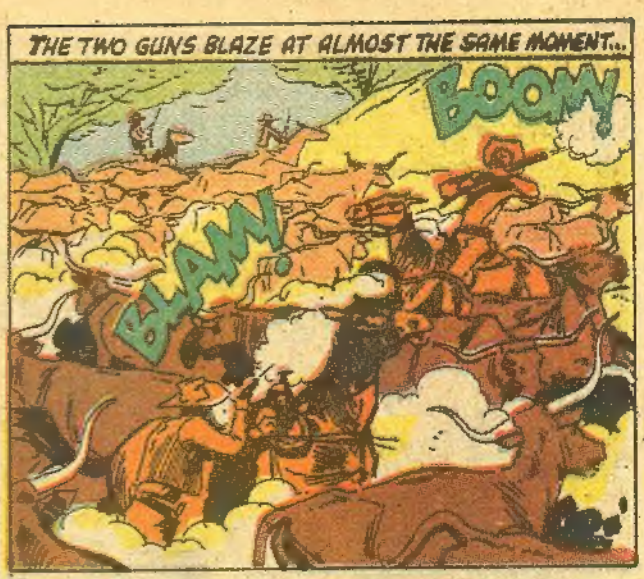
THE FIRST TWO PACKED UP AND LEFT! THE THIRD WAS SHOT DEAD! THE FOURTH VANISHED WITH HIS HERD! DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED! EACH TIME, SOMEBODY SAW STRANGERS...
STRANGERS! I'D BETTER HURRY HOME!

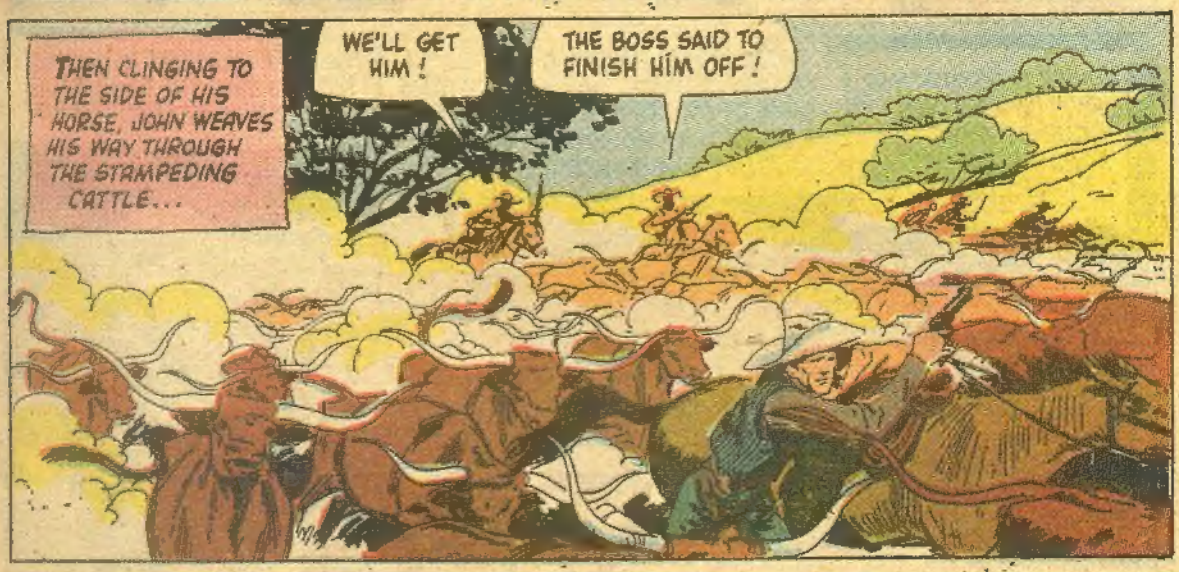

BUT JOHN IS TOO LATE...HANK AND THE CATTLE ARE GONE!
HANK! WHERE ARE YOU? HANK!

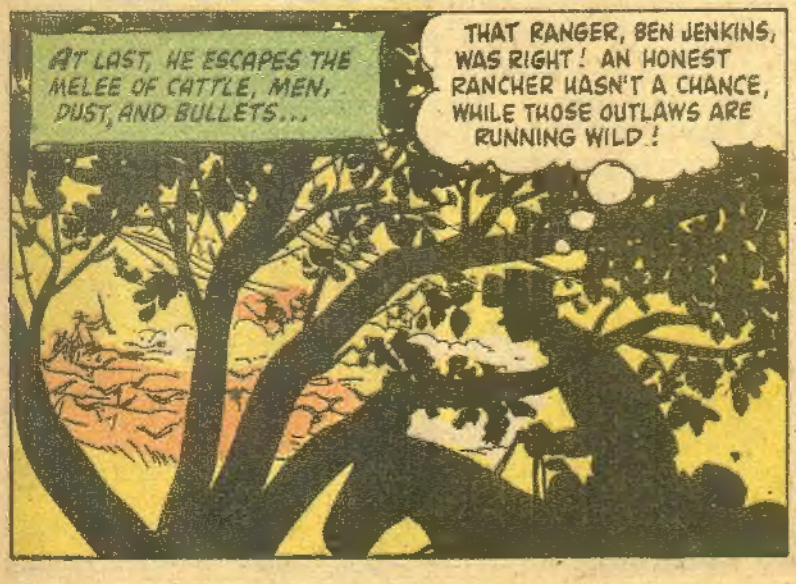
AND SUDDENLY, JOHN'S CONCERN TURNS TO COLD ANGER...
SOMEBODY'LL PAY FOR THIS! I PROMISE YOU THAT, HANK!

JOHN FINDS THE TRACKS OF A LARGE HERD ON HIS HILLSIDE...
THE RUSTLERS PICKED UP ALL MY CATTLE! IT'LL BE EASY TO FOLLOW THEIR TRAIL!
LATE THAT AFTERNOON, JOHN CATCHES UP WITH THE HERD...
MY NAME'S JOHN SLAUGHTER! ARE YOU THE BOSS OF THIS OUTFIT?
THAT'S RIGHT! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
SOMEBODY KILLED MY HIRED HAND AND STOLE MY CATTLE! I DEMAND A CATTLEMAN'S RIGHT TO INSPECT YOUR HERD!
GO AHEAD!
ARE YOU LOCO, FRANK? HE'S SURE TO SPOT HIS BRAND!
OF COURSE! RIDE UP ON THE RIDGE AND SEE HOW MANY MEN CAME WITH HIM!
THE FOREMAN RETURNS WITH SURPRISING NEWS...
THERE'S NOBODY WITH HIM, FRANK! HE CAME ALONE!
ALONE! I MUST SAY HE'S GOT NERVE! TAKE CARE OF HIM!
BUT FROM THE CORNER OF HIS EYE, JOHN SEES THE APPROACHING RIDER AND THE GLINT OF HIS SHOTGUN BARREL...

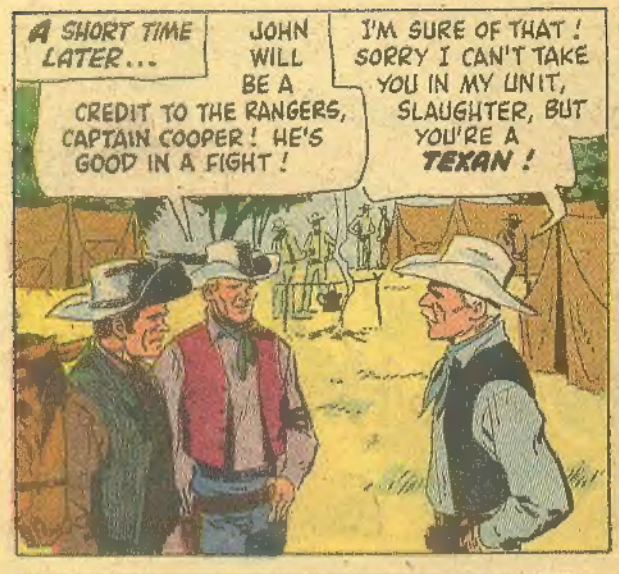
AND JOHN SLIDES OUT OF THE SADDLE...


THE TWO GUNS BLAZE AT ALMOST THE SAME MOMENT...
BOOM!
BLAM!

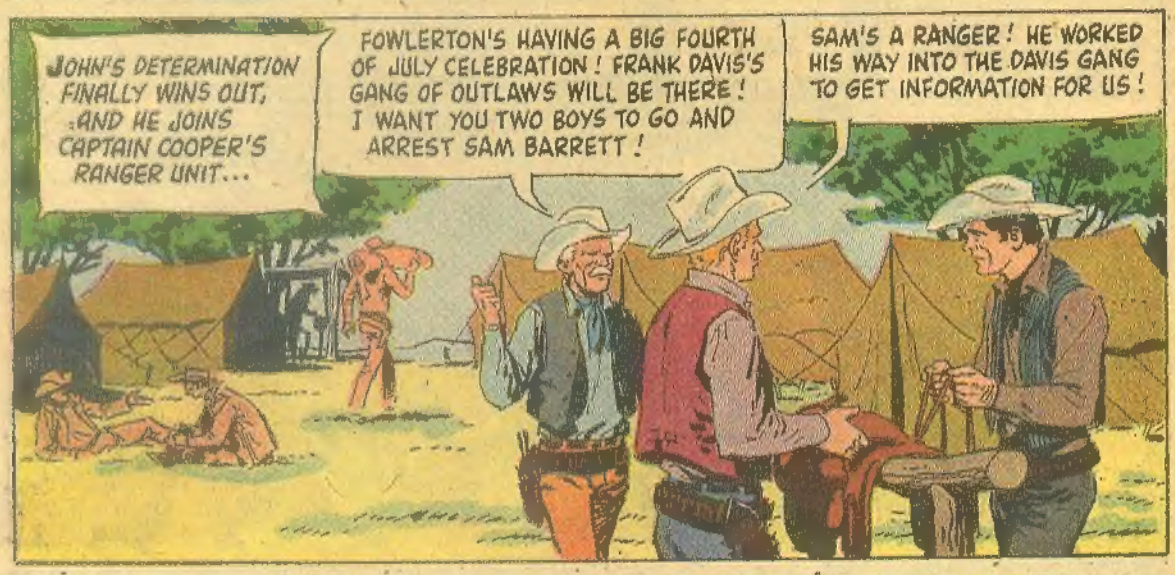

THEN CLINGING TO THE SIDE OF HIS HORSE, JOHN WEAVES HIS WAY THROUGH THE STAMPEDING CATTLE...
WE'LL GET HIM!
THE BOSS SAID TO FINISH HIM OFF!

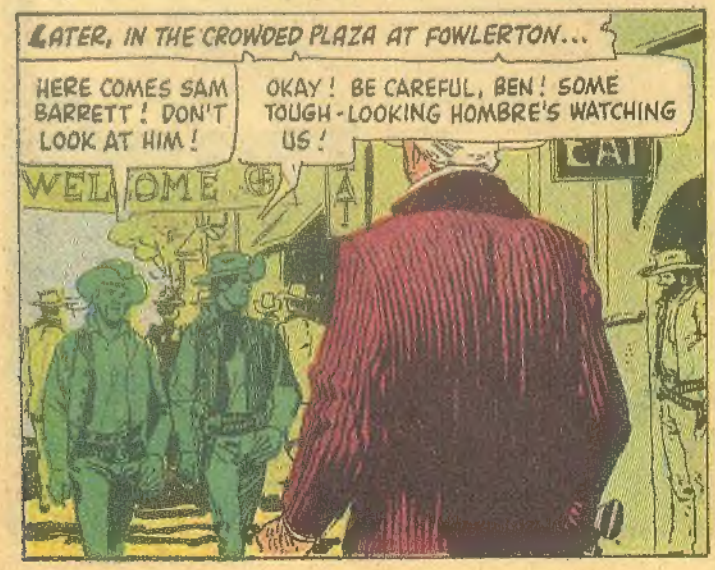

AT LAST, HE ESCAPES THE MELEE OF CATTLE, MEN, DUST, AND BULLETS...
THAT RANGER, BEN JENKINS, WAS RIGHT! AN HONEST RANCHER HASN'T A CHANCE, WHILE THOSE OUTLAWS ARE RUNNING WILD!

WE'RE HEADING FOR THE RANGER CAMP OUTSIDE FOWLERTON, BOY! LET'S GO!


A SHORT TIME LATER...
JOHN WILL BE A CREDIT TO THE RANGERS, CAPTAIN COOPER! HE'S GOOD IN A FIGHT!
I'M SURE OF THAT! SORRY I CAN'T TAKE YOU IN MY UNIT, SLAUGHTER, BUT YOU'RE A TEXAN!

I WON'T PUT ANY MAN IN A POSITION WHERE HE MIGHT HAVE TO ARREST RELATIVES OR FRIENDS!... HMM — BUT YOU SURE HAVE A FINE HORSE!
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE MY HORSE MADE IT, SO... YOU CAN'T KEEP ME OUT, CAPTAIN! I'M STAYING!


JOHN'S DETERMINATION FINALLY WINS OUT, AND HE JOINS CAPTAIN COOPER'S RANGER UNIT...
FOWLERTON'S HAVING A BIG FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION! FRANK DAVIS'S GANG OF OUTLAWS WILL BE THERE! I WANT YOU TWO BOYS TO GO AND ARREST SAM BARRETT!
SAM'S A RANGER! HE WORKED HIS WAY INTO THE DAVIS GANG TO GET INFORMATION FOR US!


LATER, IN THE CROWDED PLAZA AT FOWLERTON...
HERE COMES SAM BARRETT! DON'T LOOK AT HIM!
OKAY! BE CAREFUL, BEN! SOME TOUGH-LOOKING HOMBRE'S WATCHING US!
WELCOME
CAT

SAM BARRETT SLIPS A FOLDED PAPER INTO BEN'S HAND AS HE PASSES HIM IN THE CROWD...

SAM'S NOTE SAYS TO START A FIGHT IF WE'RE PLANNING TO ARREST HIM, AND TO MAKE IT LOOK GOOD!
SAM'S AT THE SHOOTING GALLERY! LET'S GO!

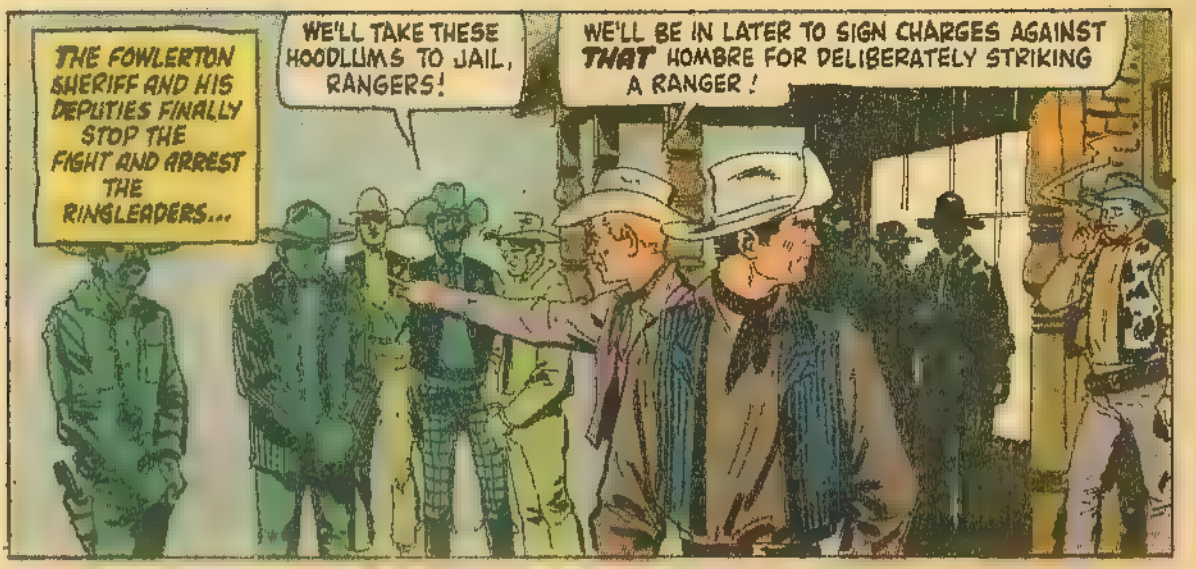
JOHN STRIDES TOWARD THE SHOOTING GALLERY AND SNAPS A QUICK SHOT AT THE TARGET..
FLAMM

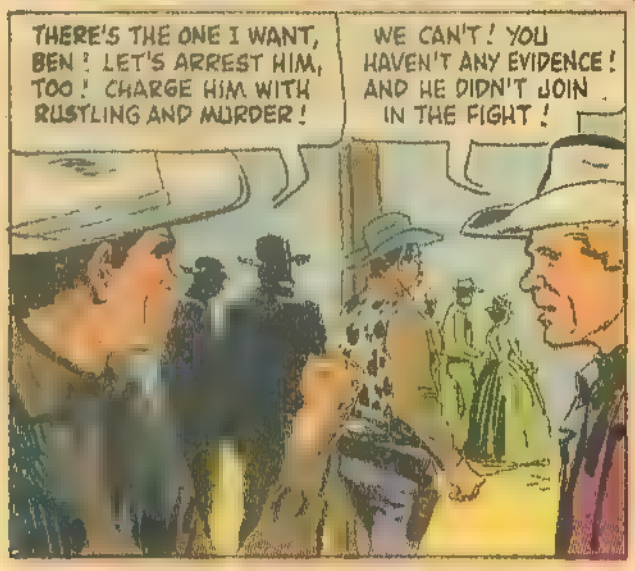
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING? OH IT'S YOU...
THAT'S RIGHT! AND I'M WARNING YOU, MISTER! GET OUTA TOWN FAST! IF I COULD PROVE YOU'RE A KILLER AND A RUSTLER YOU'D RIDE OUT OVER YOUR SADDLE!

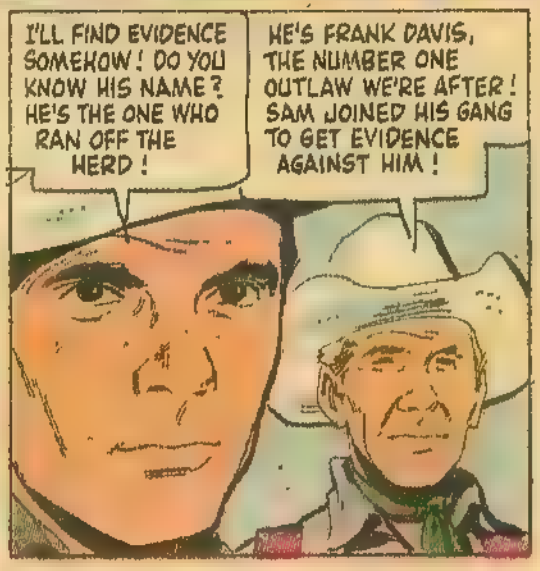
NOBODY TALKS TO MY BOSS LIKE THAT!

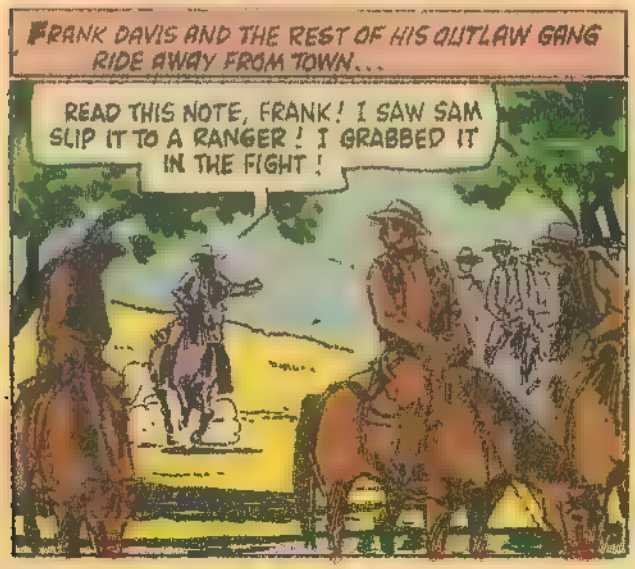
AND NOBODY HITS A RANGER, FELLA!

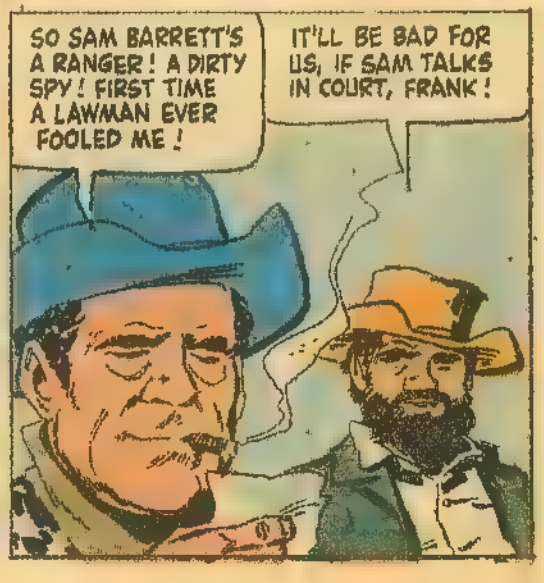
THE OUTLAWS LEAP TO SAM'S DEFENSE AND A WILD STREET BRAWL RAGES IN THE PLAZA

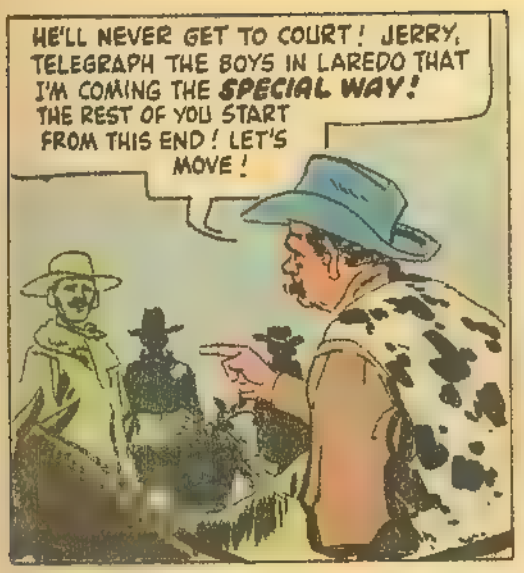

THE FOWLERTON SHERIFF AND HIS DEPUTIES FINALLY STOP THE FIGHT AND ARREST THE RINGLEADERS...
WE'LL TAKE THESE HOODLUMS TO JAIL, RANGERS!
WE'LL BE IN LATER TO SIGN CHARGES AGAINST THAT HOMBRE FOR DELIBERATELY STRIKING A RANGER!

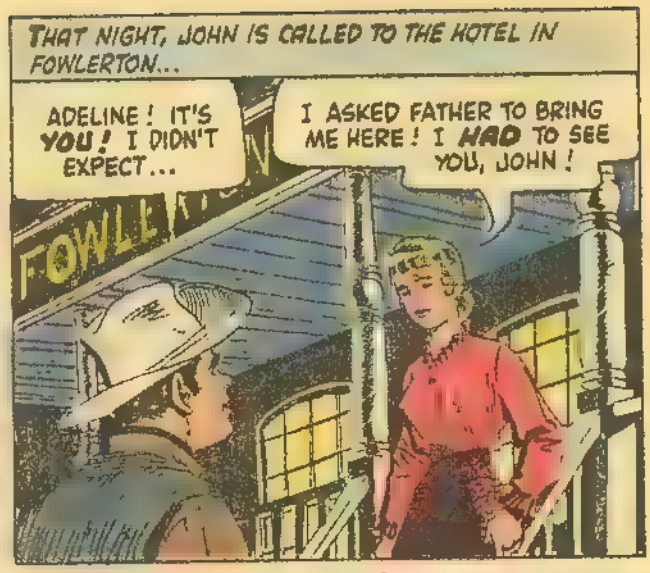

THERE'S THE ONE I WANT, BEN! LET'S ARREST HIM, TOO! CHARGE HIM WITH RUSTLING AND MURDER!
WE CAN'T! YOU HAVEN'T ANY EVIDENCE! AND HE DIDN'T JOIN IN THE FIGHT!


I'LL FIND EVIDENCE SOMEHOW! DO YOU KNOW HIS NAME? HE'S THE ONE WHO RAN OFF THE HERD!
HE'S FRANK DAVIS, THE NUMBER ONE OUTLAW WE'RE AFTER! SAM JOINED HIS GANG TO GET EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM!

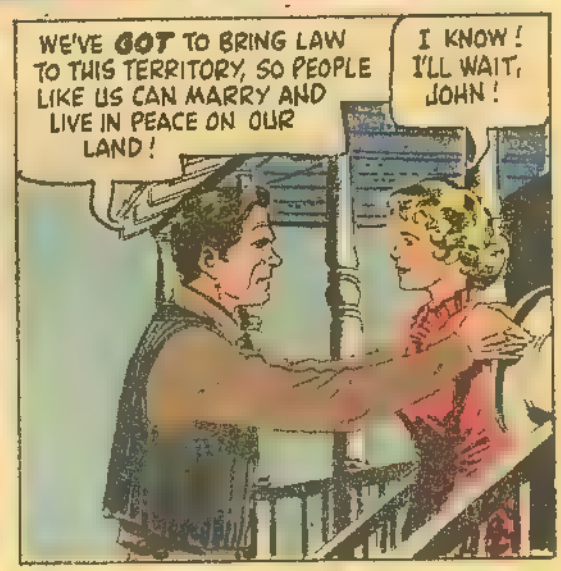

FRANK DAVIS AND THE REST OF HIS OUTLAW GANG RIDE AWAY FROM TOWN...
READ THIS NOTE, FRANK! I SAW SAM SLIP IT TO A RANGER! I GRABBED IT IN THE FIGHT!


SO SAM BARRETT'S A RANGER! A DIRTY SPY! FIRST TIME A LAWMAN EVER FOOLED ME!
IT'LL BE BAD FOR US, IF SAM TALKS IN COURT, FRANK!

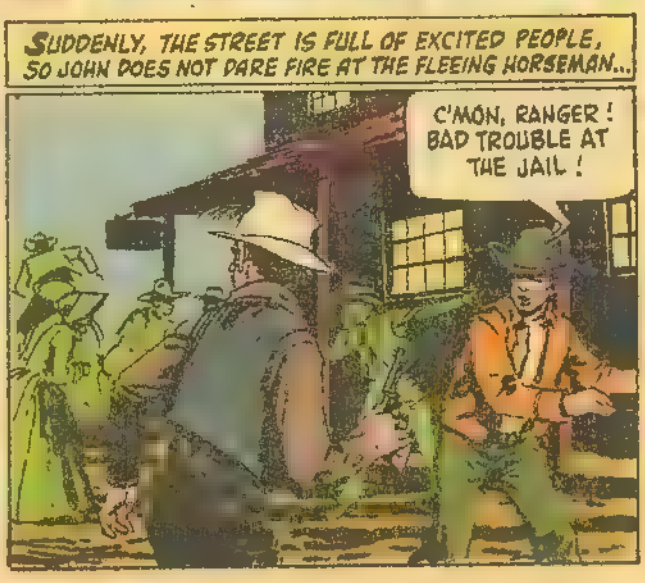

HE'LL NEVER GET TO COURT! JERRY, TELEGRAPH THE BOYS IN LAREDO THAT I'M COMING THE SPECIAL WAY! THE REST OF YOU START FROM THIS END! LET'S MOVE!

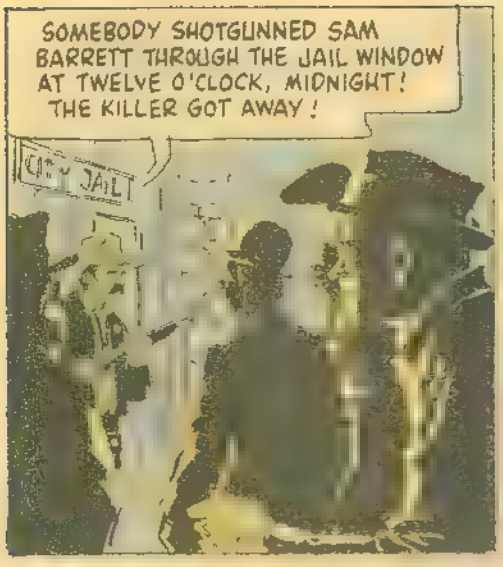

THAT NIGHT, JOHN IS CALLED TO THE HOTEL IN FOWLERTON...
ADELINE! IT'S YOU! I DIDN'T EXPECT...
I ASKED FATHER TO BRING ME HERE! I HAD TO SEE YOU, JOHN!
FOWLE

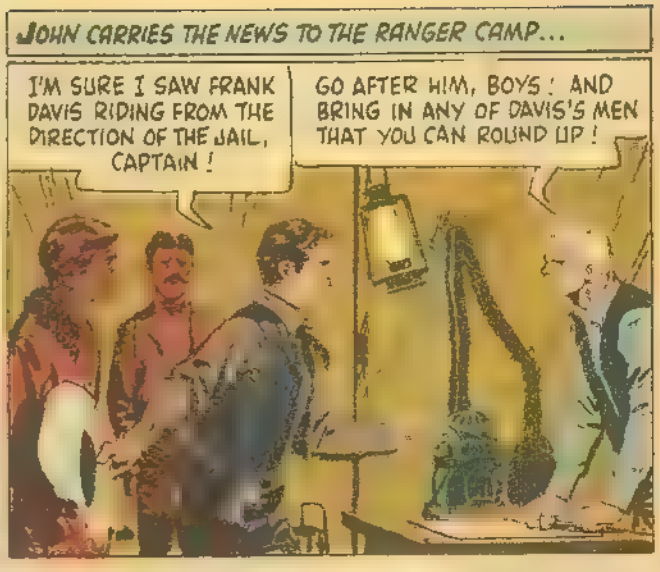
I UNDERSTAND NOW WHY YOU GAVE UP THE RANCH AND JOINED THE RANGERS! I'M GLAD YOU DID!
IT WAS THE ONLY WAY, ADELINE!

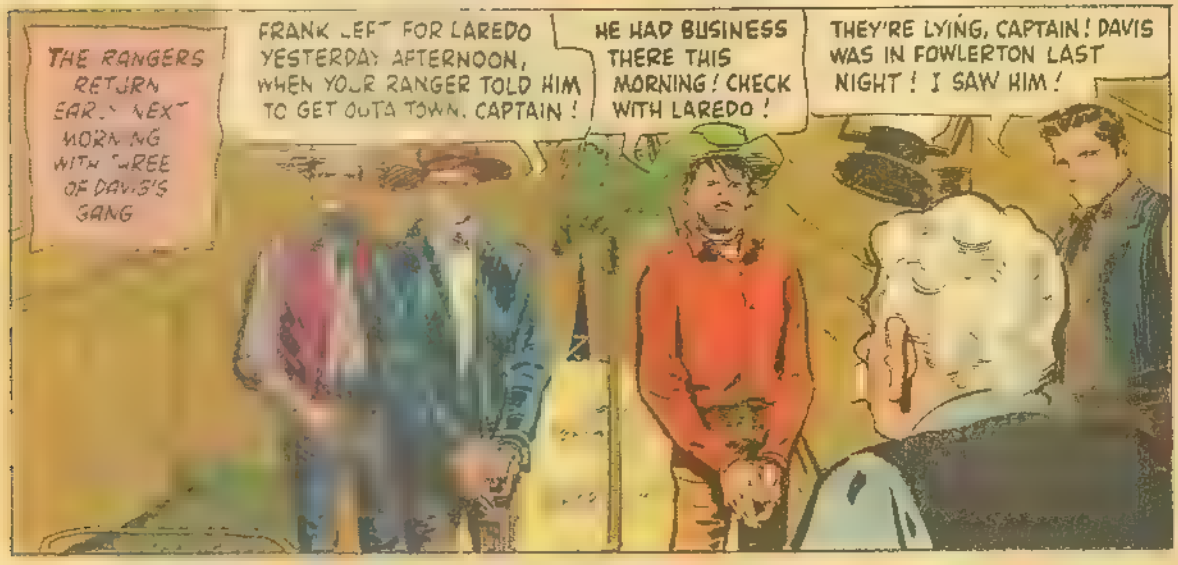

WE'VE GOT TO BRING LAW TO THIS TERRITORY, SO PEOPLE LIKE US CAN MARRY AND LIVE IN PEACE ON OUR LAND!
I KNOW! I'LL WAIT, JOHN!

LATER THAT NIGHT, AS JOHN CROSSES THE STREET, A WILDLY GALLOPING RIDER ALMOST RUNS HIM DOWN...
IT'S FRANK DAVIS...

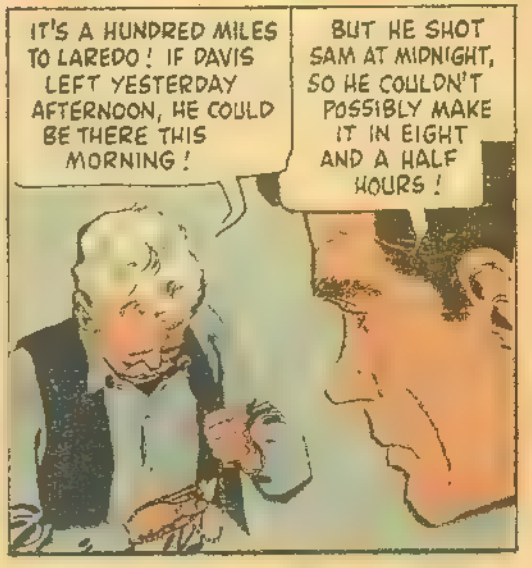

SUDDENLY, THE STREET IS FULL OF EXCITED PEOPLE, SO JOHN DOES NOT DARE FIRE AT THE FLEEING HORSEMAN...
C'MON, RANGER! BAD TROUBLE AT THE JAIL!

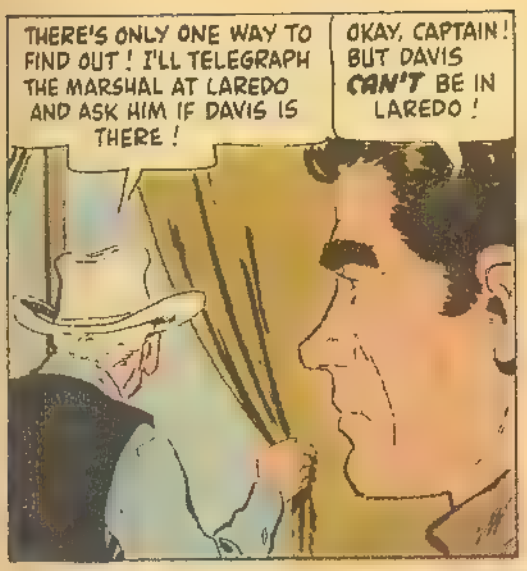

SOMEBODY SHOTGUNNED SAM BARRETT THROUGH THE JAIL WINDOW AT TWELVE O'CLOCK, MIDNIGHT! THE KILLER GOT AWAY!
CITY JAIL

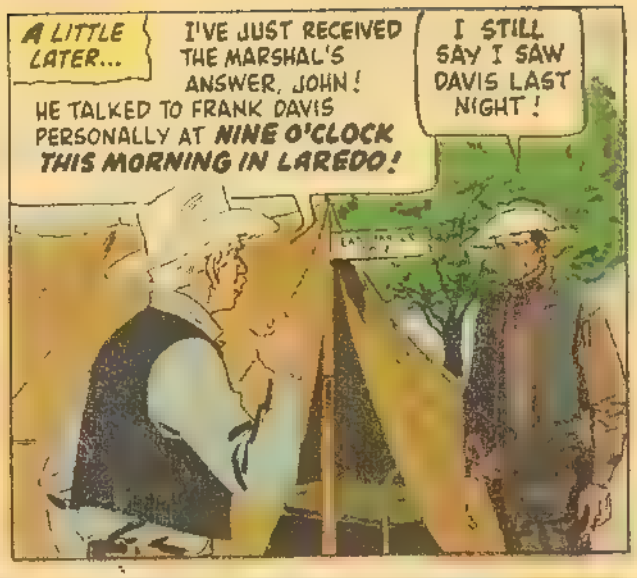

JOHN CARRIES THE NEWS TO THE RANGER CAMP...
I'M SURE I SAW FRANK DAVIS RIDING FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE JAIL, CAPTAIN!
GO AFTER HIM, BOYS! AND BRING IN ANY OF DAVIS'S MEN THAT YOU CAN ROUND UP!

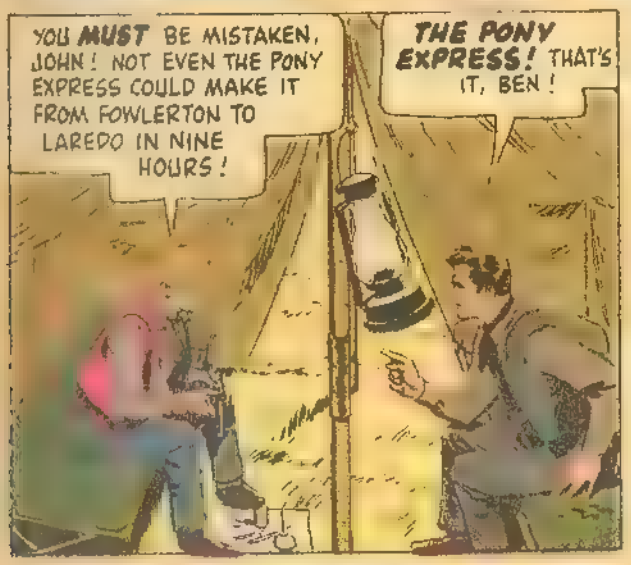

THE RANGERS RETURN EARLY NEXT MORNING WITH THREE OF DAVIS'S GANG
FRANK LEFT FOR LAREDO YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, WHEN YOUR RANGER TOLD HIM TO GET OUTA TOWN, CAPTAIN!
HE HAD BUSINESS THERE THIS MORNING! CHECK WITH LAREDO!
THEY'RE LYING, CAPTAIN! DAVIS WAS IN FOWLERTON LAST NIGHT! I SAW HIM!

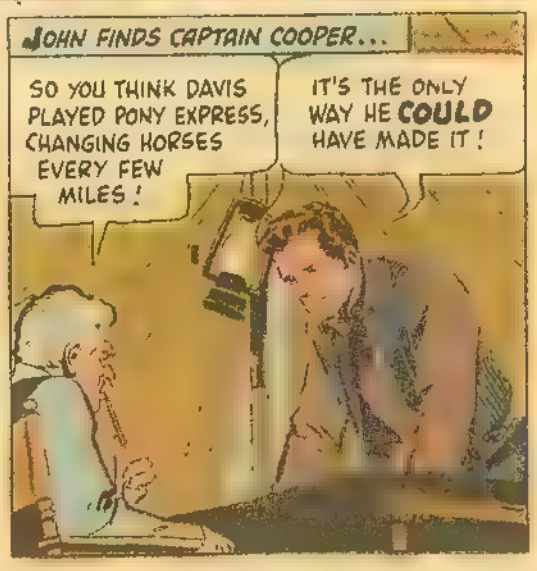
IF WE WASTE TIME LOOKING FOR THE WRONG MAN THE REAL KILLER WILL GET AWAY! ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN...?
YES! I KNOW I SAW DAVIS!


IT'S A HUNDRED MILES TO LAREDO! IF DAVIS LEFT YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, HE COULD BE THERE THIS MORNING!
BUT HE SHOT SAM AT MIDNIGHT, SO HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY MAKE IT IN EIGHT AND A HALF HOURS!

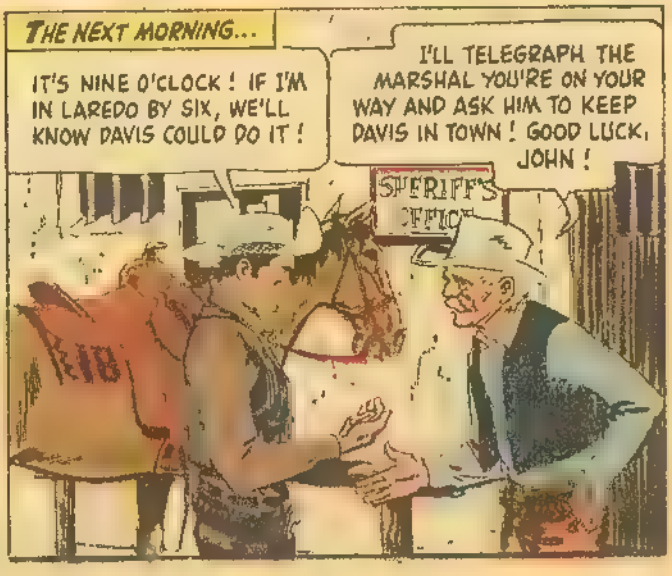

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT! I'LL TELEGRAPH THE MARSHAL AT LAREDO AND ASK HIM IF DAVIS IS THERE!
OKAY, CAPTAIN! BUT DAVIS CAN'T BE IN LAREDO!


A LITTLE LATER...
I'VE JUST RECEIVED THE MARSHAL'S ANSWER, JOHN! HE TALKED TO FRANK DAVIS PERSONALLY AT NINE O'CLOCK THIS MORNING IN LAREDO!
I STILL SAY I SAW DAVIS LAST NIGHT!


YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN, JOHN! NOT EVEN THE PONY EXPRESS COULD MAKE IT FROM FOWLERTON TO LAREDO IN NINE HOURS!
THE PONY EXPRESS! THAT'S IT, BEN!


JOHN FINDS CAPTAIN COOPER...
SO YOU THINK DAVIS PLAYED PONY EXPRESS, CHANGING HORSES EVERY FEW MILES!
IT'S THE ONLY WAY HE COULD HAVE MADE IT!

IT'S WORTH TRYING, JOHN! WE'LL SEND FIVE GOOD MOUNTS FROM HERE AND RENT FIVE IN LAREDO! YOU'LL HAVE A FRESH HORSE EVERY TEN MILES!

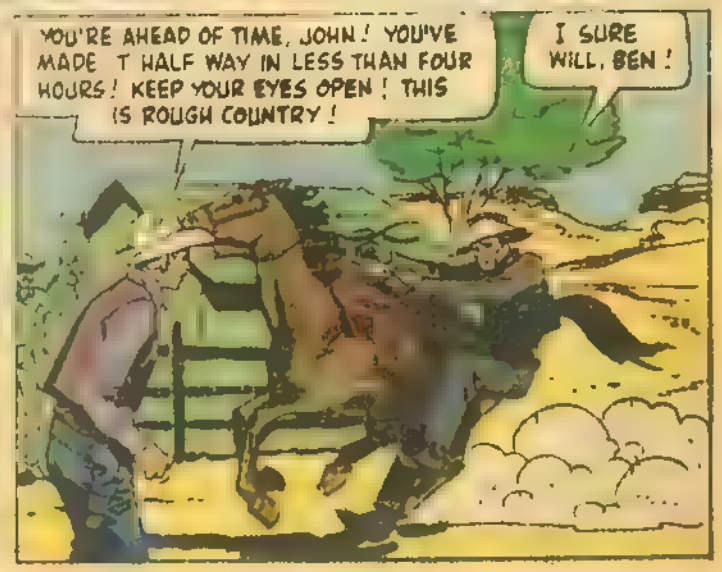

THE NEXT MORNING...
IT'S NINE O'CLOCK! IF I'M IN LAREDO BY SIX, WE'LL KNOW DAVIS COULD DO IT!
I'LL TELEGRAPH THE MARSHAL YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY AND ASK HIM TO KEEP DAVIS IN TOWN! GOOD LUCK, JOHN!

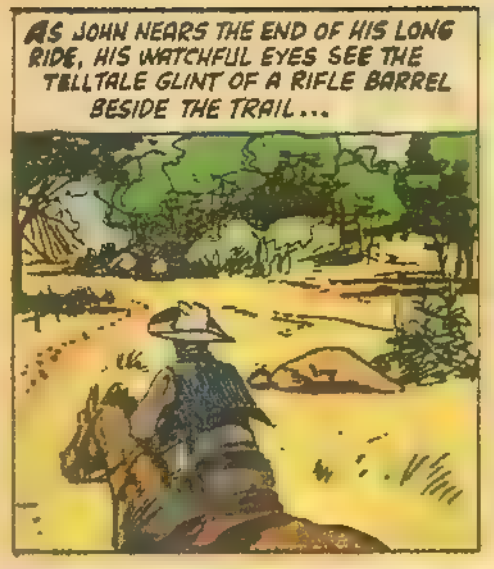
THE TELEGRAPH OPERATOR IN LAREDO SPREADS THE NEWS OF JOHN'S RIDE...
THE TELEGRAM TO THE MARSHAL SAID THE RANGER'S ON HIS WAY NOW!
NOBODY CAN MAKE A HUNDRED MILES IN NINE HOURS!
LOOKS LIKE THE RANGERS HAVE DISCOVERED YOUR SPECIAL WAY OF TRAVELIN', FRANK! YOU'D BETTER GET OUTA HERE NOW!
LAREDO

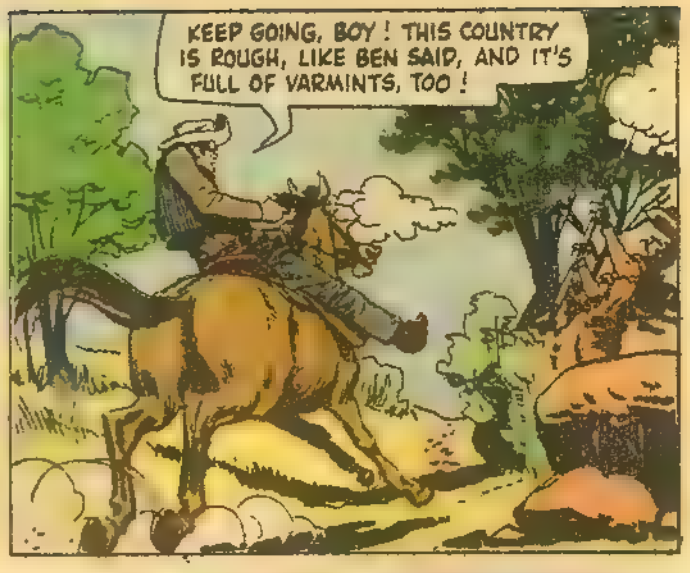
POST MEN AT ALL THE ROADS LEADING OUT OF TOWN, FRED! WE WANT TO KNOW WHO TRIES TO LEAVE!
OKAY, MARSHAL!

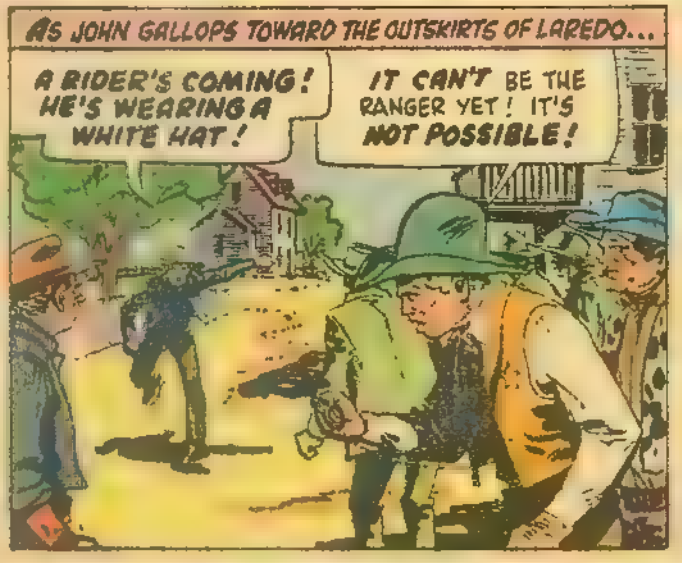
DID YOU HEAR THAT? I DON'T DARE TRY TO LEAVE NOW! THE MARSHAL'S WATCHING ME LIKE A HAWK! YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THAT RANGER!

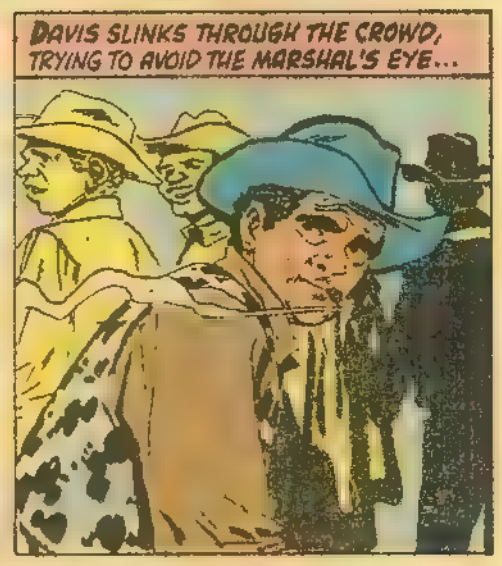
IN THE MEANTIME JOHN RIDES ACROSS ROCKY PLACES, JAGGED HILLS AND TEMPEROUS STREAMS, CHANGING HORSES EVERY TEN MILES


YOU'RE AHEAD OF TIME, JOHN! YOU'VE MADE IT HALF WAY IN LESS THAN FOUR HOURS! KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN! THIS IS ROUGH COUNTRY!
I SURE WILL, BEN!


AS JOHN NEARS THE END OF HIS LONG RIDE, HIS WATCHFUL EYES SEE THE TELLTALE GLINT OF A RIFLE BARREL BESIDE THE TRAIL...


KEEP GOING, BOY! THIS COUNTRY IS ROUGH, LIKE BEN SAID, AND IT'S FULL OF VARMINTS, TOO!


AS JOHN GALLOPS TOWARD THE OUTSKIRTS OF LAREDO...
A RIDER'S COMING! HE'S WEARING A WHITE HAT!
IT CAN'T BE THE RANGER YET! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!


DAVIS SLINKS THROUGH THE CROWD, TRYING TO AVOID THE MARSHAL'S EYE...

IT IS THE RANGER!
HURRAH FOR TEXAS JOHN SLAUGHTER!
WE WEREN'T EXPECTING YOU SO SOON, SLAUGHTER! YOU MADE IT IN EIGHT HOURS AND FIVE MINUTES!
WE DIDN'T THINK IT COULD BE DONE!

WHERE IS DAVIS, MARSHAL ?
HE WAS HERE A MINUTE AGO . . .
ZING!
OUT OF THE WAY, EVERYBODY !
JOHN'S GUN BLAZES BEFORE THE FLEEING DAVIS CAN FIRE A SECOND TIME .
STOP, DAVIS ! DROP YOUR GUN !
YOU ONLY WOUNDED HIM, SLAUGHTER !
I WANT HIM TO LIVE TO STAND TRIAL IN FOWLERTON ! I PROMISED HANK THAT, MARSHAL !
WHEN JOHN RETURNS TO THE RANGER'S CAMP .
CONGRATULATIONS FOR DOING A FINE JOB, JOHN ! NOW WE'VE GOT THE EVIDENCE TO STOP DAVIS FOREVER !
DON'T THINK YOUR JOB'S DONE, JOHN ! THE OTHER TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE OUTLAWS IN DAVIS'S GANG ARE STILL LOOSE ! AND THEY'RE ALL YOURS !
IF THE CAPTAIN'S WILLING, I'LL WALK AFTER THEM INSTEAD OF RIDING !

WALT DISNEY PRESENTS

The Nine Lives of ELFEGO BACA

ONE DAY, IN THE YEAR 1882, FRIGHTENED SPANISH-AMERICAN RESIDENTS OF A SMALL SOUTHWESTERN TOWN WATCH IN HORROR AS AN ANGRY MOB OF COWBOYS AND RANCHERS POUR ROUND AFTER ROUND OF AMMUNITION INTO A SMALL MUD HUT AT THE END OF A DUSTY STREET...

HE HAS NO CHANCE AGAINST THAT MOB!

CAN WE NOT STOP THIS? THEY ARE WRECKING YOUR HOME, ANITA!

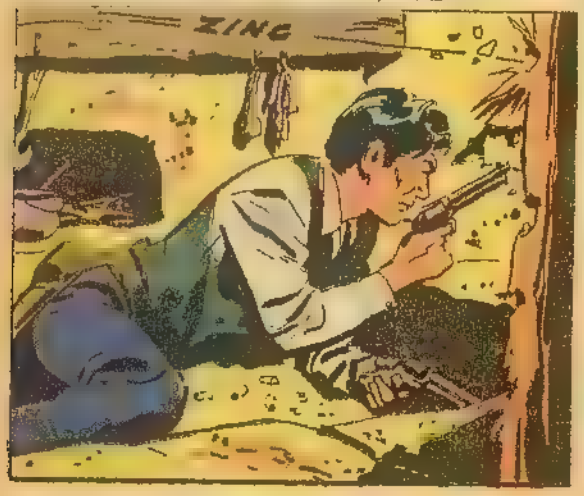
MY HOME IS NOT IMPORTANT! THE POOR MAN HAD TO HIDE SOMEWHERE!

BLAM!

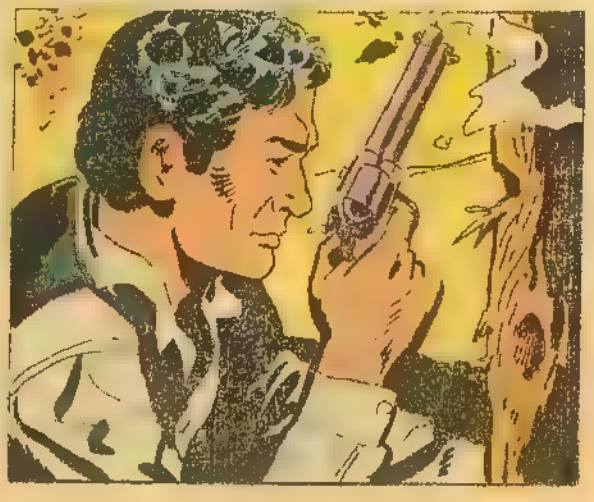
CRACK!

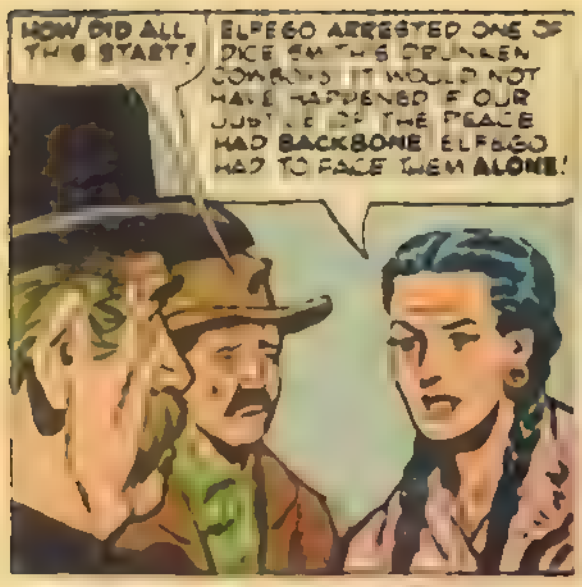
BANG!

INSIDE THE BESIEGED HUT, THE MAN KNOWN AS ELFEGO BACA LIES PRONE AS THE BULLETS WHINE OVERHEAD...

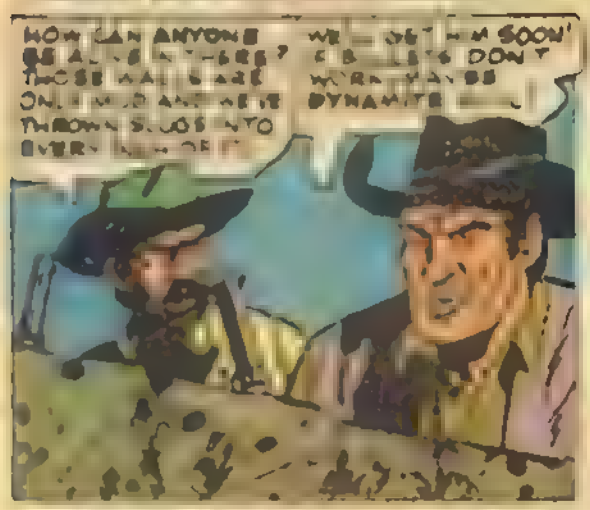


ELFEGO KNOWS HIS CHANCES ARE SLIM, BUT HE IS DETERMINED TO HOLD OUT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE...





MEANWHILE, DICE SMITH AND HIS COWBOYS CONTINUE THE BARRAGE...



.. AND THROUGH THE NIGHT THE GUNS BLAZE. BUT ELFEGO FIGHTS ON...

FIRE TORCHES FAIL TO BLIND THE WILD GUNS

ONE BY ONE, ELFEGO'S ENEMIES FALL...

AS A LAST RESORT, DYNAMITE IS USED...

DURING THE THIRTY-THREE HOUR SIEGE, OVER FOUR THOUSAND BULLETS ARE SHOT... BUT GUNFIRE STILL COMES FROM THE RUBBLE AND RUIN...

HE **STILL** LIVES! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

ELFEGO BACA IS NOT **HUMAN**! HE'S GOT MORE LIVES THAN A CAT!

BANG!

FINALLY, THE HELP FROM SOCORRO ARRIVES...

ELFEGO! IT IS ME! DEPUTY MORGAN... COME OUT AND YOU WILL NOT BE HARMED! I AM TAKING YOU INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY! THERE WILL BE A FAIR TRIAL!

WHAT DOES PROTECTIVE CUSTODY MEAN?

IT MEANS HE AIMS TO GET THAT MURDERIN' SKUNK AWAY FROM US!

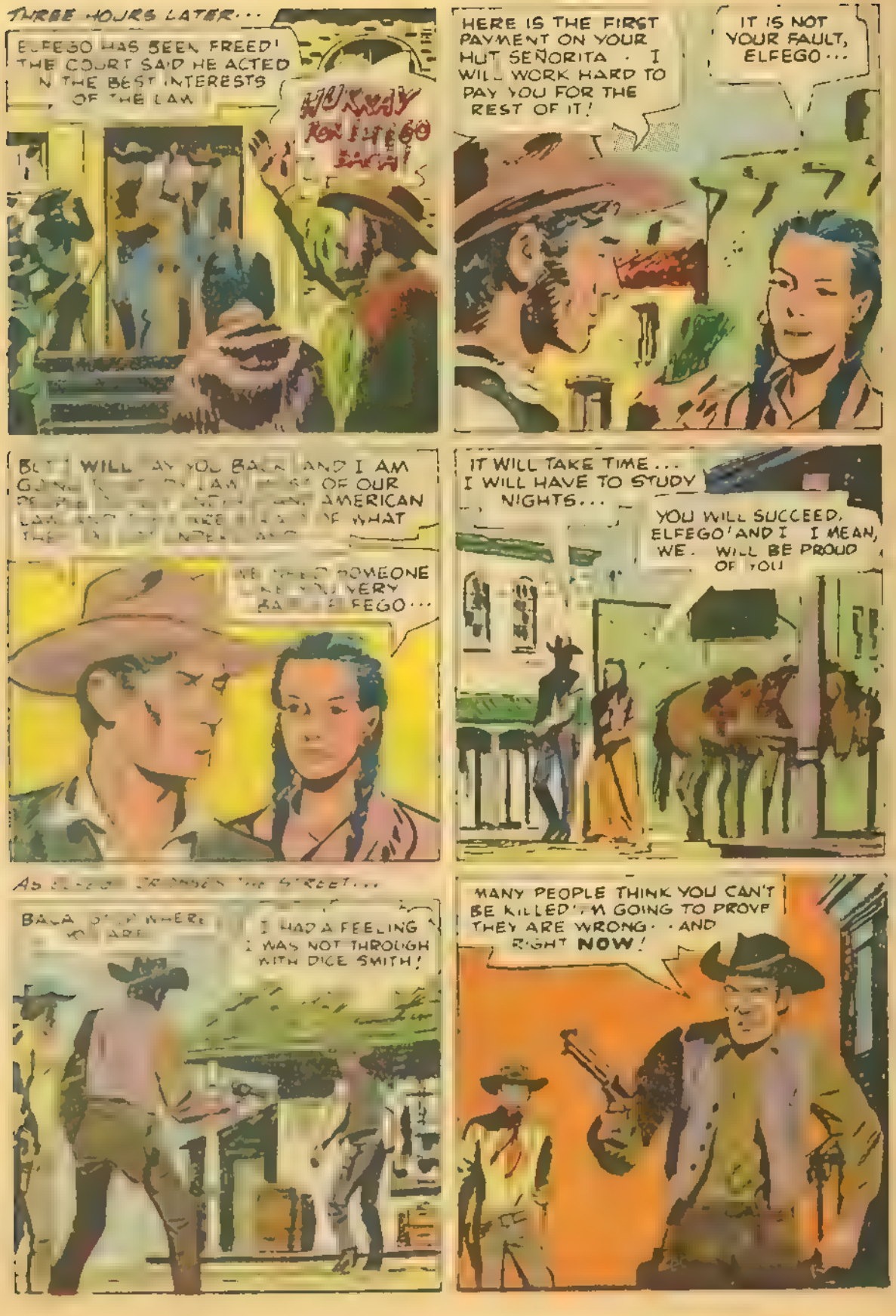
BUT YOU JUST WAIT... TRIAL OR NO TRIAL, I'M GOING TO PROVE ELFEGO BACA IS AS HUMAN AS THE REST OF US!

TWO DAYS LATER, ELFEGO IS GIVEN A CHANCE TO TELL HIS STORY TO A COURT...

GOOD LUCK, ELFEGO! THEY'LL BELIEVE YOU! JUST TELL 'EM THE TRUTH!

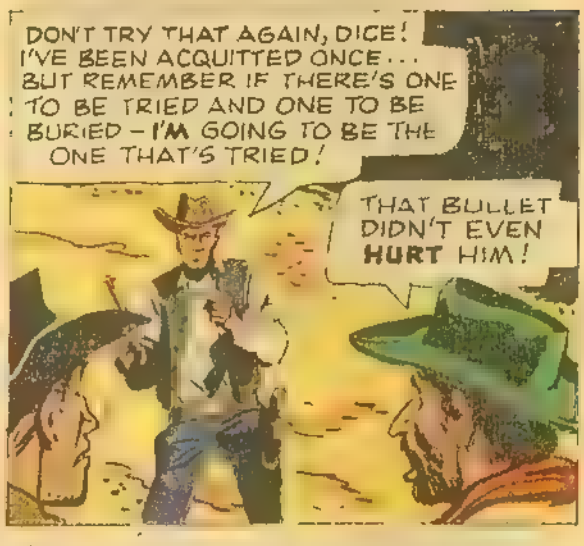
ANYBODY'D BELIEVE YOU BEFORE THEY'D LISTEN TO THAT NO-ACCOUNT DICE SMITH!

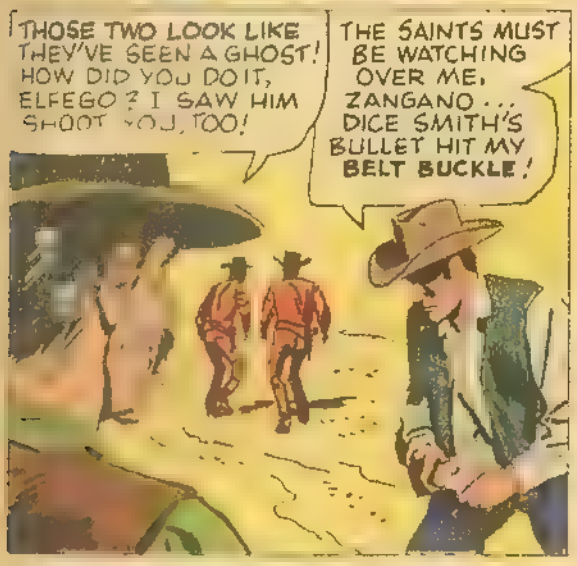
SOCORRO COURTHOUSE


THREE HOURS LATER...
ELFEGO HAS BEEN FREED! THE COURT SAID HE ACTED IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE LAW
HURRAY FOR ELFEGO BACA!
HERE IS THE FIRST PAYMENT ON YOUR HUT SEÑORITA. I WILL WORK HARD TO PAY YOU FOR THE REST OF IT!
IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT, ELFEGO...
BUT I WILL PAY YOU BACK AND I AM GOING TO TAKE MY PART OF OUR PEOPLE INTO THE AMERICAN LAW AND FREE THEM OF WHAT THE ... INTERPRETS
WE NEED SOMEONE LIKE YOU VERY BADLY, ELFEGO...
IT WILL TAKE TIME... I WILL HAVE TO STUDY NIGHTS...
YOU WILL SUCCEED, ELFEGO! AND I I MEAN, WE. WILL BE PROUD OF YOU
AS ELFEGO CROSSES THE STREET...
BACA! STOP WHERE YOU ARE
I HAD A FEELING I WAS NOT THROUGH WITH DICE SMITH!
MANY PEOPLE THINK YOU CAN'T BE KILLED! I'M GOING TO PROVE THEY ARE WRONG... AND RIGHT NOW!

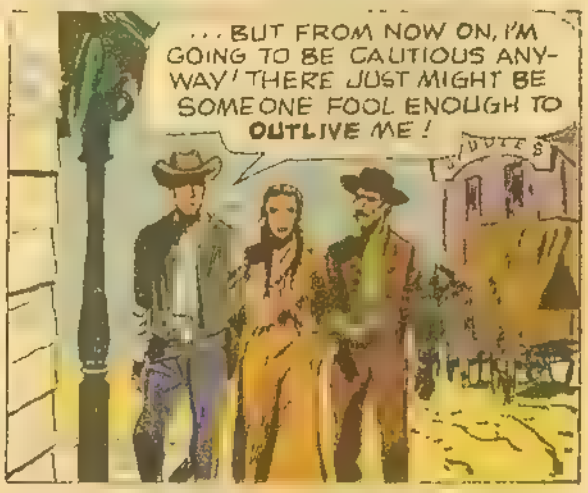
BEFORE ELFEGO CAN DRAW HIS GUN, DICE SMITH FIRES . . .

. . . AND IS ASTOUNDED TO SEE HIS TARGET STILL STANDING . . .

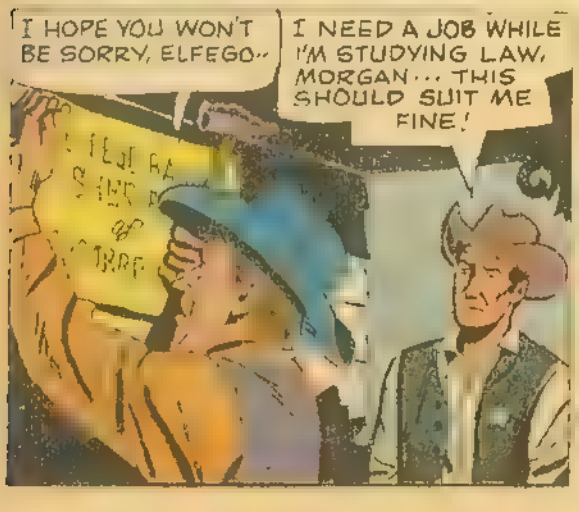




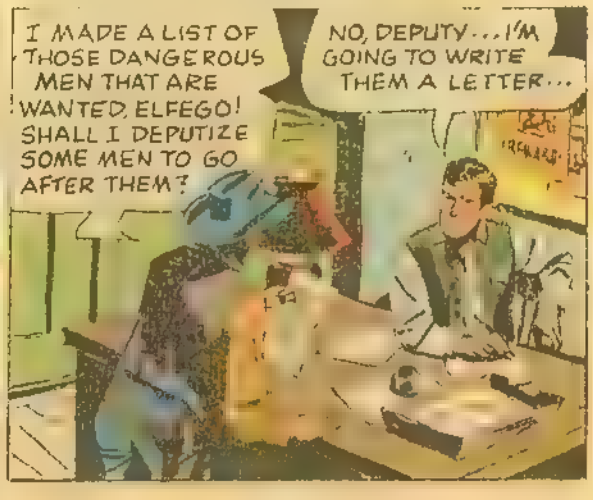
AND SO FROM THAT DAY ON, ELFEGO BACA BECOMES KNOWN AS THE MAN WITH NINE LIVES . . .

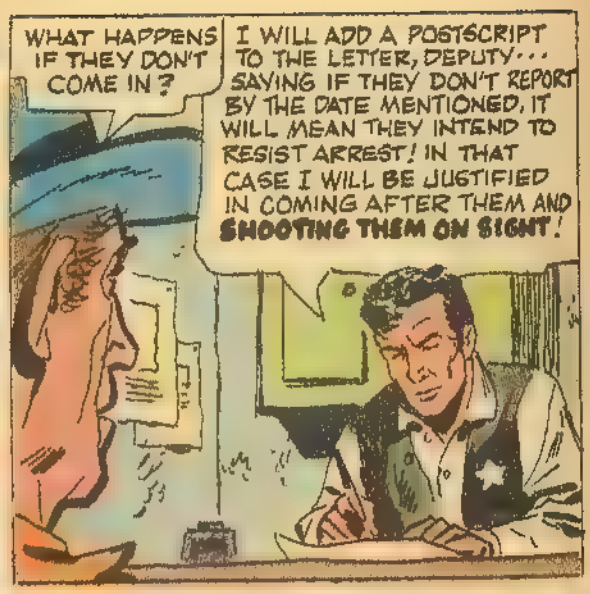


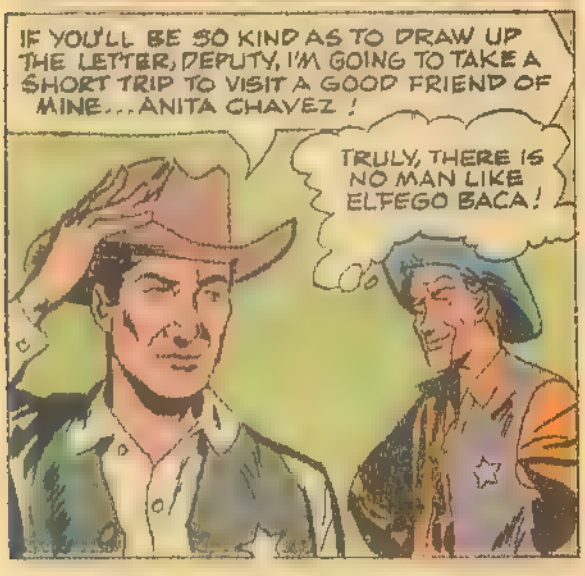
ELFEGO'S FAME SPREADS . . . AND PERSUADED BY DEPUTY MORGAN, HE AGREES TO TAKE A NEW JOB . . .



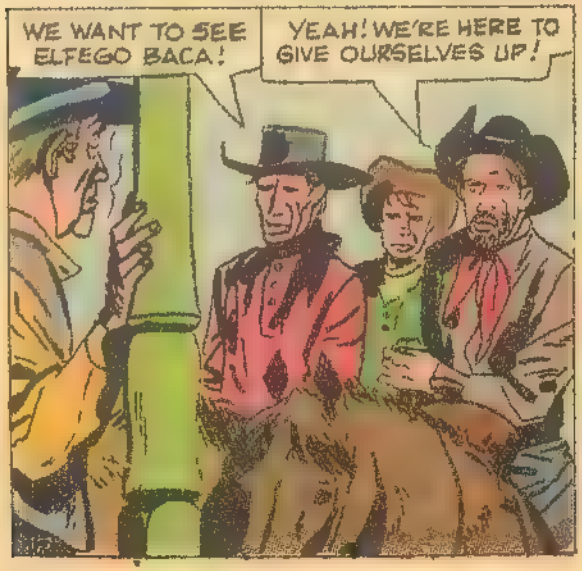
IT IS NOT LONG BEFORE THE PEOPLE OF SOCORRO REALIZE ELFEGO BACA IS A DIFFERENT KIND OF SHERIFF . . .



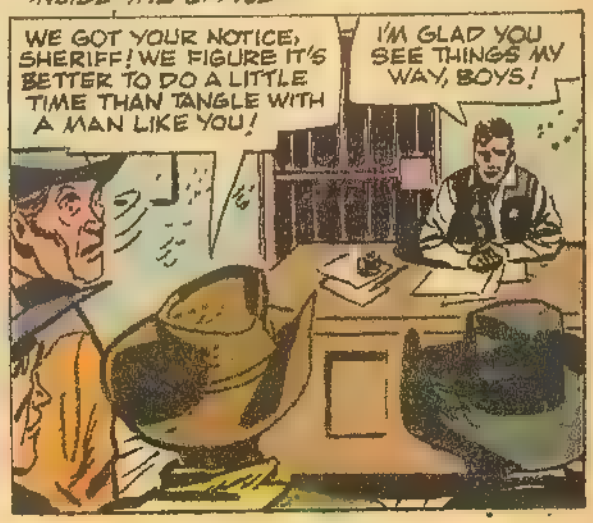


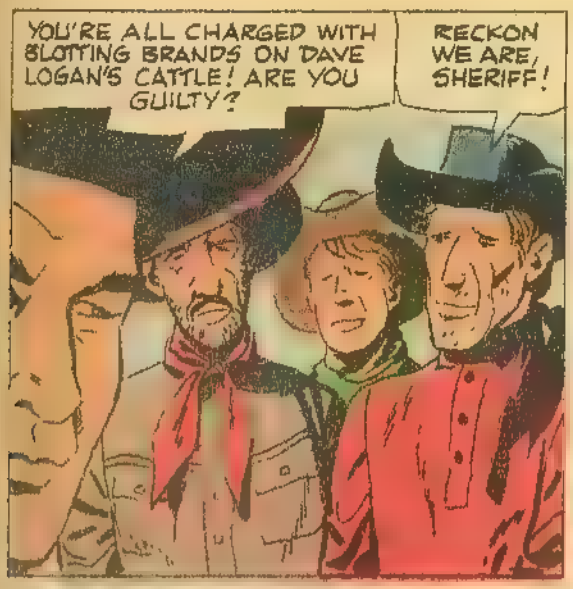


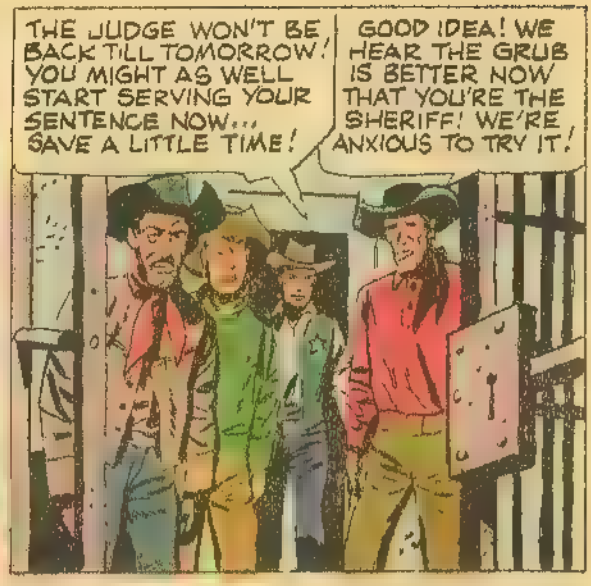
ELFEGO'S LETTERS ARE SENT OUT, AND AS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH APPROACHES...

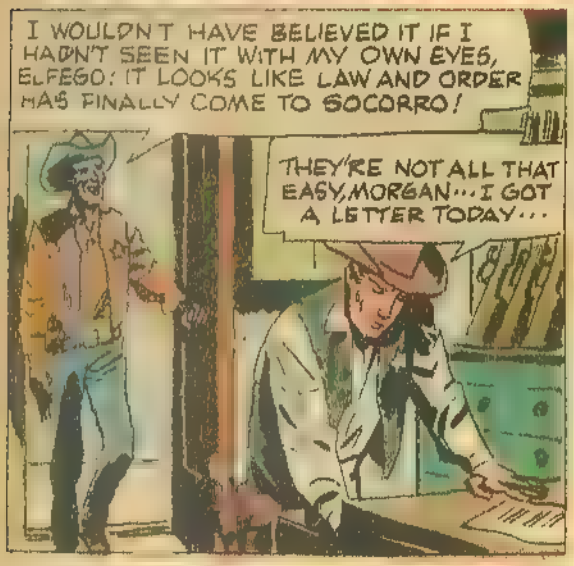


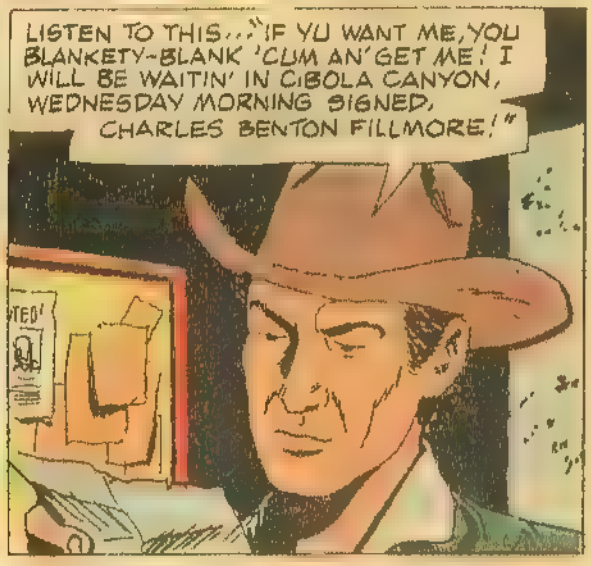
THE STUNNED DEPUTY ESCORTS THE MEN INSIDE THE OFFICE...

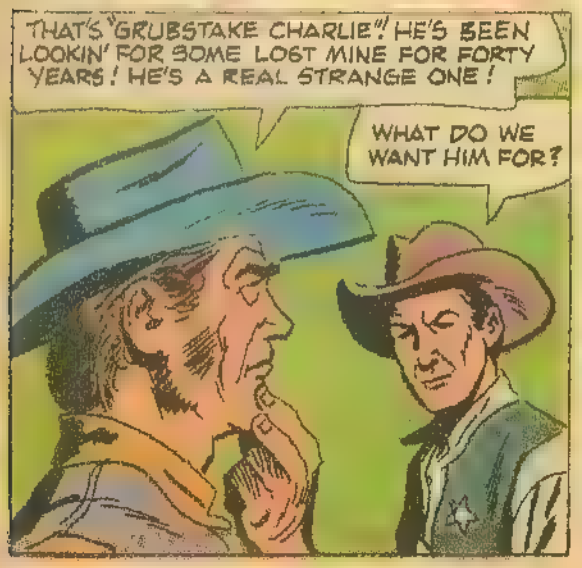


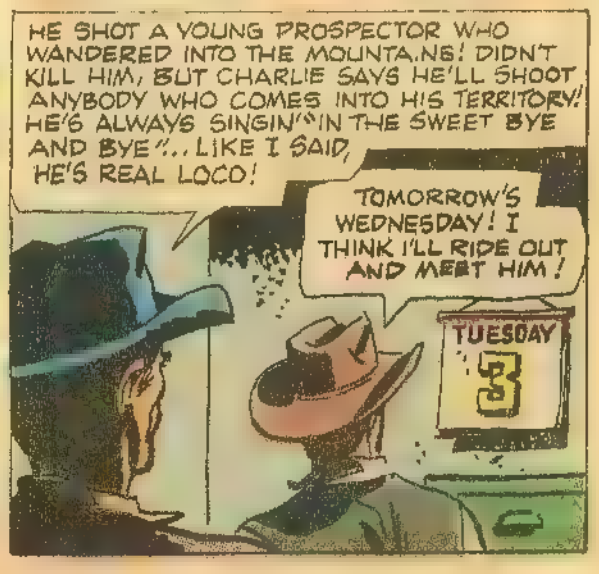

YOU'RE ALL CHARGED WITH BLOTTING BRANDS ON DAVE LOGAN'S CATTLE! ARE YOU GUILTY?
RECKON WE ARE, SHERIFF!


THE JUDGE WON'T BE BACK TILL TOMORROW! YOU MIGHT AS WELL START SERVING YOUR SENTENCE NOW... SAVE A LITTLE TIME!
GOOD IDEA! WE HEAR THE GRUB IS BETTER NOW THAT YOU'RE THE SHERIFF! WE'RE ANXIOUS TO TRY IT!

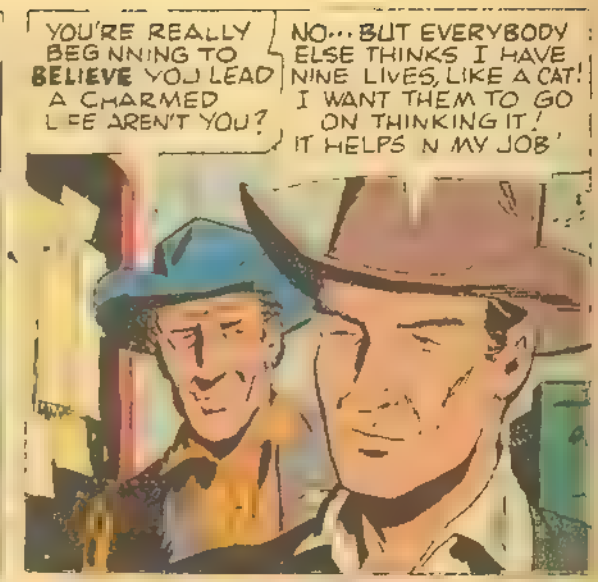

I WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED IT IF I HADN'T SEEN IT WITH MY OWN EYES, ELFEGO: IT LOOKS LIKE LAW AND ORDER HAS FINALLY COME TO SOCORRO!
THEY'RE NOT ALL THAT EASY, MORGAN... I GOT A LETTER TODAY...

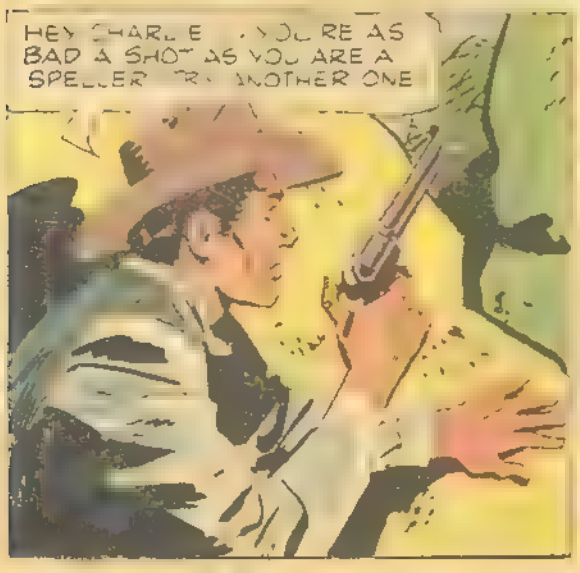

LISTEN TO THIS..."IF YU WANT ME, YOU BLANKETY-BLANK 'CUM AN' GET ME! I WILL BE WAITIN' IN CIBOLA CANYON, WEDNESDAY MORNING SIGNED, CHARLES BENTON FILLMORE!"


THAT'S "GRUBSTAKE CHARLIE"! HE'S BEEN LOOKIN' FOR SOME LOST MINE FOR FORTY YEARS! HE'S A REAL STRANGE ONE!
WHAT DO WE WANT HIM FOR?


HE SHOT A YOUNG PROSPECTOR WHO WANDERED INTO THE MOUNTAINS! DIDN'T KILL HIM, BUT CHARLIE SAYS HE'LL SHOOT ANYBODY WHO COMES INTO HIS TERRITORY! HE'S ALWAYS SINGIN' "IN THE SWEET BYE AND BYE"... LIKE I SAID, HE'S REAL LOCO!
TOMORROW'S WEDNESDAY! I THINK I'LL RIDE OUT AND MEET HIM!
TUESDAY
3

I'LL GO WITH YOU!
MR. FILLMORE INVITED ME, DEPUTY! YOU'D BETTER STAY HERE AND WATCH THE OFFICE!

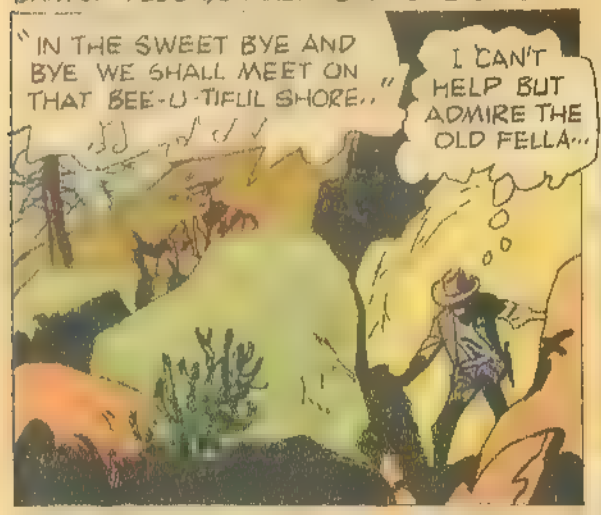

YOU'RE REALLY BEGINNING TO BELIEVE YOU LEAD A CHARMED LIFE AREN'T YOU?
NO... BUT EVERYBODY ELSE THINKS I HAVE NINE LIVES, LIKE A CAT! I WANT THEM TO GO ON THINKING IT! IT HELPS IN MY JOB!


HEY CHARLIE... YOU'RE AS BAD A SHOT AS YOU ARE A SPELLER TOO! ANOTHER ONE

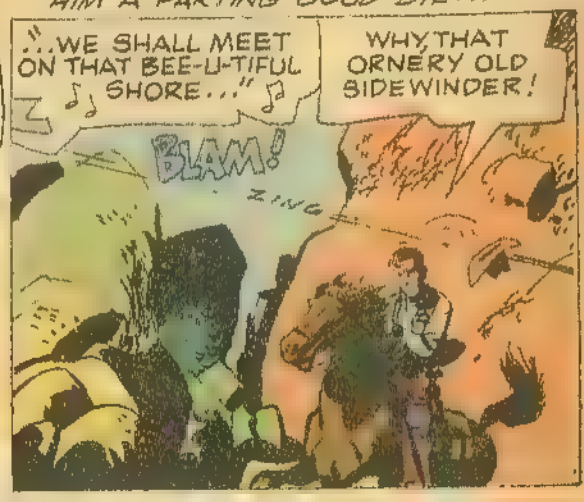
AS CHARLIE STARTS TO RELOAD, ELFEGO DASHES ACROSS THE CANYON...

TAKE

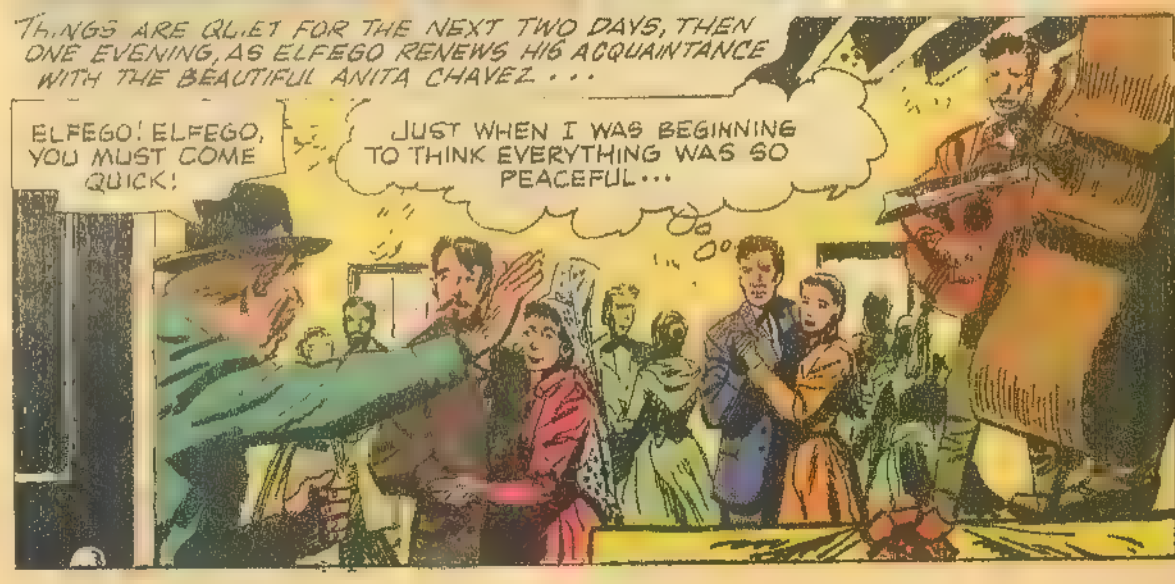
AS ELFEGO STARTS BACK DOWN TO THE CANYON FLOOR, CHARLIE BEGINS TO SING...

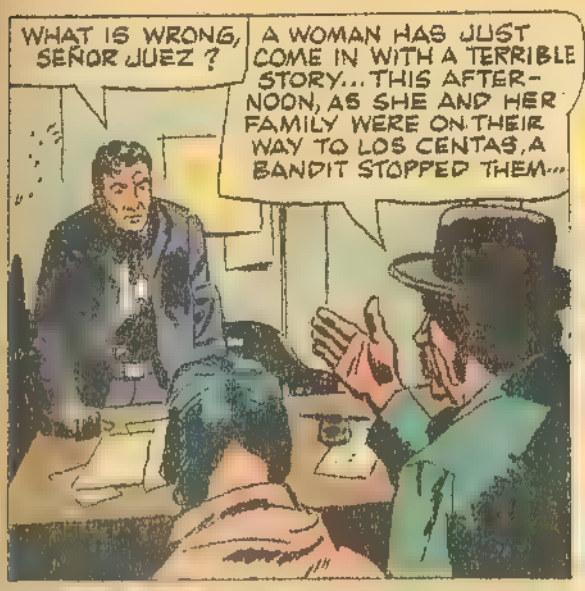


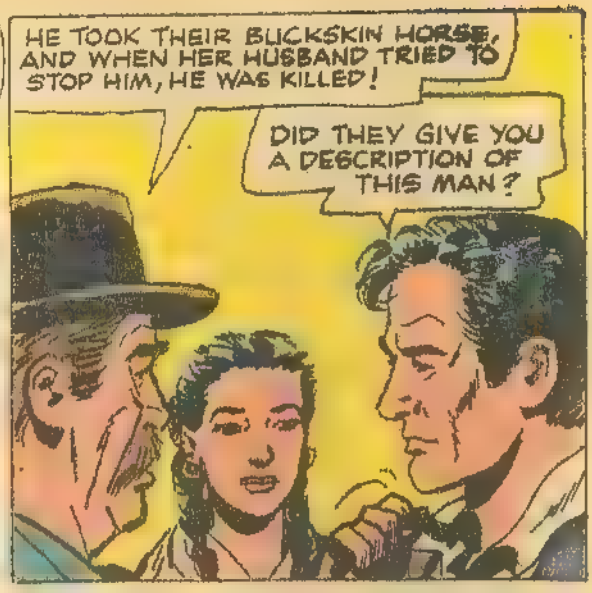
BUT ELFEGO'S ADMIRATION IS SOMEWHAT DIMMED AS CHARLIE SENDS HIM A PARTING GOOD-BYE...

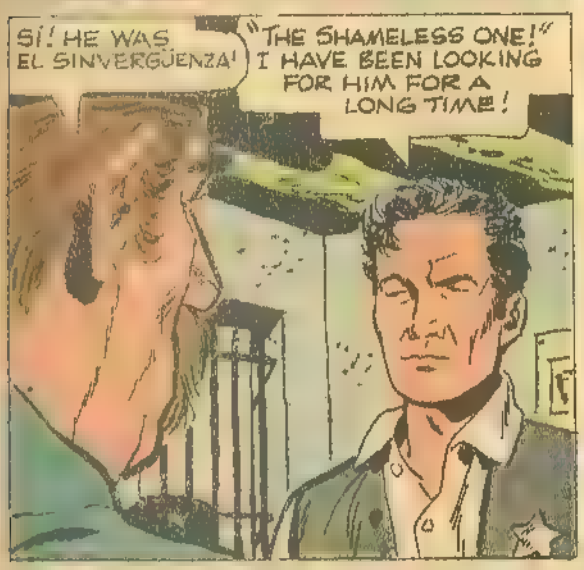


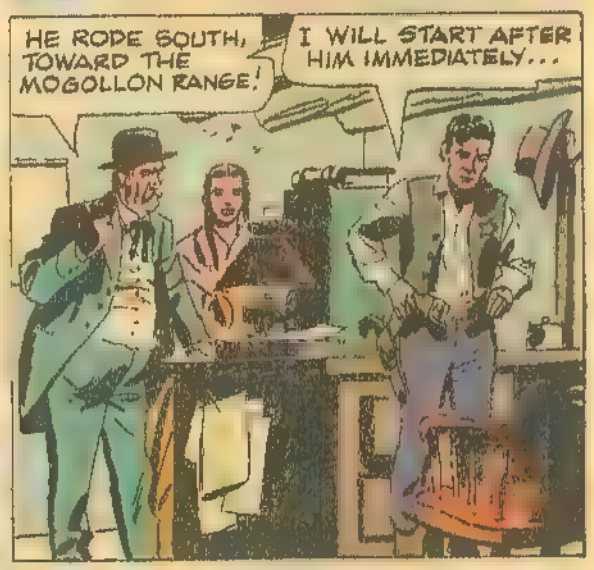
THINGS ARE QUIET FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS, THEN ONE EVENING, AS ELFEGO RENEWS HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE BEAUTIFUL ANITA CHAVEZ...

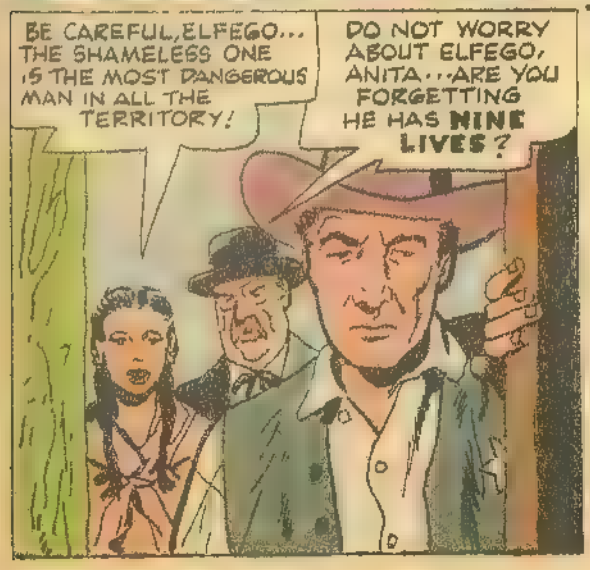




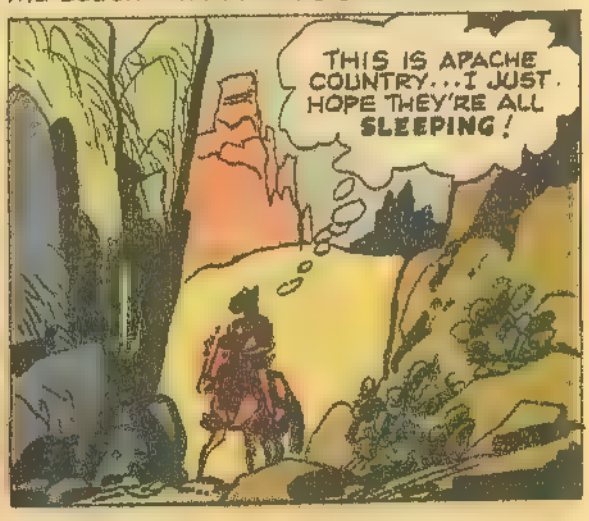








THE FOLLOWING DAY, AS ELFEGO PURSUES THE ELUSIVE TRAIL OF EL SINVERGUENZA...



BUT SHORTLY...

YOU STOP! YOU NOT GO FARTHER!

I COME AS A FRIEND.. I AM LOOKING FOR A MAN OF MY OWN BLOOD! HE IS A KILLER AND A DISGRACE TO MY PEOPLE! HAVE YOU SEEN HIM? HE RIDES A BUCKSKIN HORSE!

THE INDIANS ENGAGE IN A WHISPERED CONVERSATION FOR A MOMENT AND THEN...

WE TRUST YOU! THE MAN YOU ARE LOOKING FOR PASSED HERE YESTERDAY! HE GAVE US SILVER AND SAID HE WAS BEING PURSUED BY WHITE MEN! WE DID NOT KNOW HE WAS A KILLER!

THANK YOU, MY FRIENDS! I AM MOST GRATEFUL!

THE TRAIL CONTINUES, AND AS ELFEGO CROSSES THE BORDER...

I HAVE NO AUTHORITY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BORDER! I WILL HAVE TO BRING HIM BACK HERE AND ARREST HIM ON THIS SIDE!

FINALLY, IN A DUSTY MEXICAN TOWN...

THE BUCKSKIN! I HAVE FOUND THE MAN I AM LOOKING FOR!

CANTINA

AND INSIDE THE CANTINA...

MY NAME IS ELFEGO BACA SHERIFF OF SOCORRO COUNTY! I HAVE COME TO ARREST YOU FOR MURDER!

HA. THAT IS THE STATEMENT OF A FOOL! I HAVE SHOT BETTER MEN THAN YOU WITH MY EYES CLOSED!

BUT AS EL SINVERGÜENZA DRAWS HIS GUN...

NEXT TIME, SEÑOR.. YOU SHOULD **OPEN** YOUR EYES!

ELFEGO TAKES HIS PRISONER ACROSS THE BORDER WHERE HE FORMALLY PLACES HIM UNDER ARREST...

HOW CAN YOU DO THIS TO SOMEONE OF YOUR OWN BLOOD?

YOU ARE NOT OF MY BLOOD! YOU ARE DESCENDED FROM A HE-GOAT

LATER, IN THE SOCORRO SHERIFF'S OFFICE...

I'VE GOT A HUNCH OUR PRISONER WON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FACE TRIAL, ELFEGO! I EVEN HAD TO MOVE SOME OF THE PRISONERS OUT OF HIS CELL SO THEY WOULDN'T HURT HIM! WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT GETTING HIM A LAWYER?

NO MATTER HOW BAD HIS CRIME... EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO LEGAL AID! AND ANYONE TRIES TO TAKE EL SINVERGUENZA AWAY FROM ME THEY'LL HAVE TO GET OUT ME FIRST. AND THEY WON'T EVEN STILL HAVE A FEW **LIVES** LEFT AFTER THAT!

SOON AN UNRULY MOB GATHERS OUTSIDE THE JAIL...

LISTEN TO ME! ONCE ALL OF YOU SAW ME FACE A MOB THAT WANTED TO TAKE **MY** LIFE! WHEN I STOOD UP TO THEM YOU THOUGHT I WAS A HERO!

WELL ONE MOB IS NO DIFFERENT FROM ANOTHER. YOU ARE NOT HUMAN BEINGS ANYMORE. YOU ARE A **MOB**. GO HOME AND BECOME HUMAN BEINGS AGAIN. LET THE LAW TAKE CARE OF THIS!

ELFEGO IS RIGHT! WE ARE BLINDED BY HATE AND GRIEF!

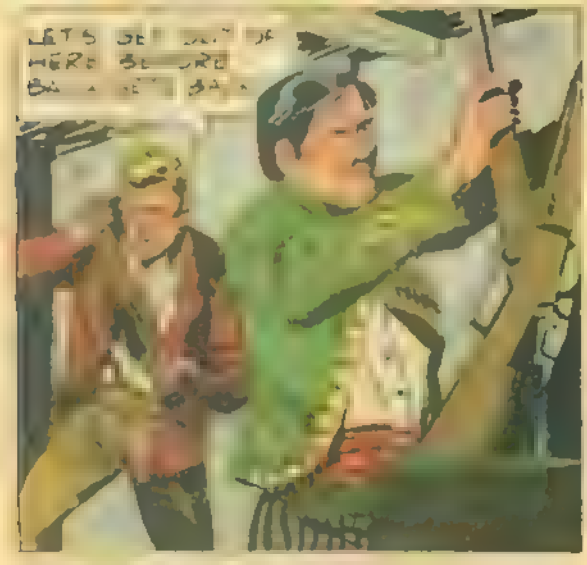
THAT NIGHT, WITH HIS CELLMATE, JESSE HOGG, EL SINVERGUENZA PLOTS ESCAPE...

I TELL YOU I HAVE FRIENDS WAITIN' FOR ME OUTSIDE WITH HORSES... ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET OUT OF THIS CELL!

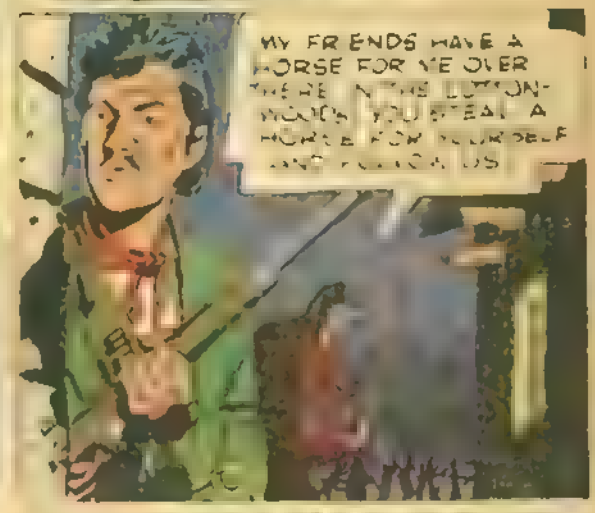
I HAVE AN IDEA...

LATER DEPUTY MORGAN BRINGS THE PRISONERS THEIR SUPPER

AS MORGAN SETS THE TRAY DOWN...



THE PRISONERS SLIP OUT INTO THE DARKNESS...



NOW WITH THE DEPUTY'S PRISONERS...

THE POSSE HAS ALREADY RALLED OUT OF TONY AS EL EGO STEPS INTO THE STREET

AS ELFEGO CROSSES THE STREET...

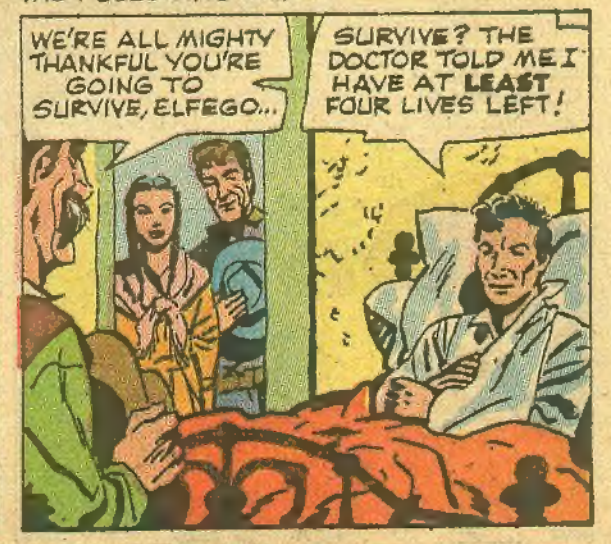
THINKING HE HAS KILLED ELFEGO, EL SINVERGÜENZA CROSSES TOWARD THE LIVERY STABLE...

WOUNDED, EL SINVERGÜENZA TRIES TO FLEE; BUT LIKE AN AVENGING GHOST, ELFEGO BACA RISES AND PURSUES HIM...

SOON, IN THE LIVERY STABLE...

THE OUTLAW FIRES BLINDLY BUT A SPLIT-SECOND LATER...

THE FOLLOWING DAY...



A FEW DAYS LATER, ALL SOCORRO GIVES THEIR HERO A WARM SENDOFF...

A PLEDGE DELL COMIC TO PARENTS

The Dell Trademark is, and always has been, a positive guarantee that the comic magazine bearing it contains only clean and wholesome entertainment. The Dell code eliminates entirely, rather than regulates, objectionable material. That's why when your child buys a Dell Comic you can be sure it contains only good fun. "DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS" *is our only credo and constant goal.*

Texas JOHN SLAUGHTER

By Stan Jones

His turned-up white Stetson
and pearl-handled gun
Were known both far and wide.

With Stetson so white
And a pearl-handled gun
Swingin' on his side,

Chorus:
Texas John Slaughter
made 'em do what they oughter
'Cuz if they didn't they died.

From Louisiana
he went west to Texas
As a young man in all his pride,
And — (repeat chorus)

In Texas a Ranger
he had to become
And outlaws he defied,
For — (repeat chorus)

The Ranger's badge
he wore right well,
Making outlaws go and hide,
For — (repeat chorus)

He fought for the right in
the new land out west
And its future helped decide,
For — (repeat chorus)

He told men just once
the law to obey
Or get on his horse and ride,
'Cuz — (repeat chorus)

He wore two things
by which he was known
And wherever he would ride,
Folks said — (repeat chorus)

John fell in love with a
cattleman's daughter
And asked her to be his bride,
While — (repeat chorus)

John searched for a home
on this wild frontier
In peace to take his bride,
While — (repeat chorus)

His turned-up white Stetson
and pearl-handled gun
Were known both far and wide . . .
Were known both far and wide.

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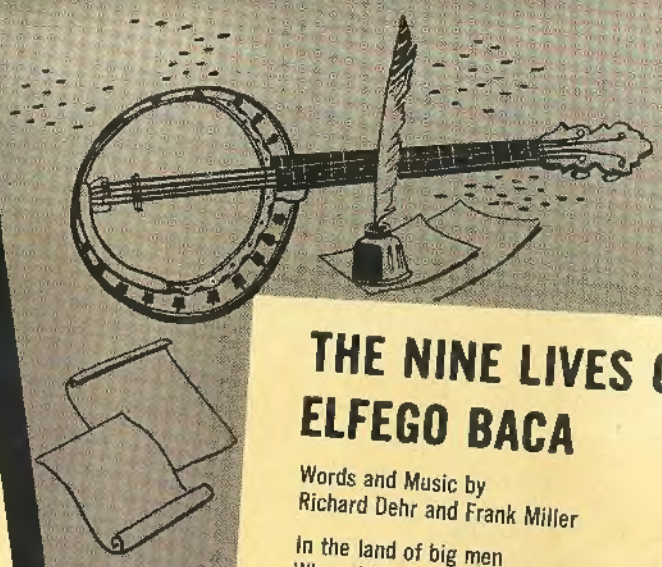

THE NINE LIVES OF ELFEGO BACA

Words and Music by
Richard Dehr and Frank Miller

In the land of big men
When this great West was wild,
Elfego was small and his nature was mild,
And the legend was that like el gato the cat,
Nine lives had Elfego, el gato.

Chorus:

Elfego was wise and Elfego was strong,
Elfego el gato who made right from wrong,
And the legend was that like el gato the cat,
Nine lives had Elfego Baca.

He dared to stand up to the toughest of men,
He faced all their six guns again and again,
All the people in town
And the folks all around
Sing the praise of Elfego, el gato.

(Repeat Chorus)

Elfego was calm and his aim it was true,
He'd ride with the law 'til
The battle was through.
With a star on his chest,
He was law in the West,
They called him Elfego, el gato.

(Repeat Chorus)

Elfego had lived with his life on a thread
For many a gunman had left him for dead.
And the legend was that like el gato, the cat,
Nine lives had Elfego, el gato.

(Repeat Chorus)

Elfego was small but Elfego was brave,
There were many who wished him asleep
in his grave,
But the bad men who tried were
the bad men who died,
Nine lives had Elfego, el gato.

(Repeat Chorus)

Elfego was good and Elfego was kind,
To the man on the range,
And the man in the mine,
The people in town and the good
folks around,
Sang the praise of Elfego, el gato.

(Repeat Chorus)

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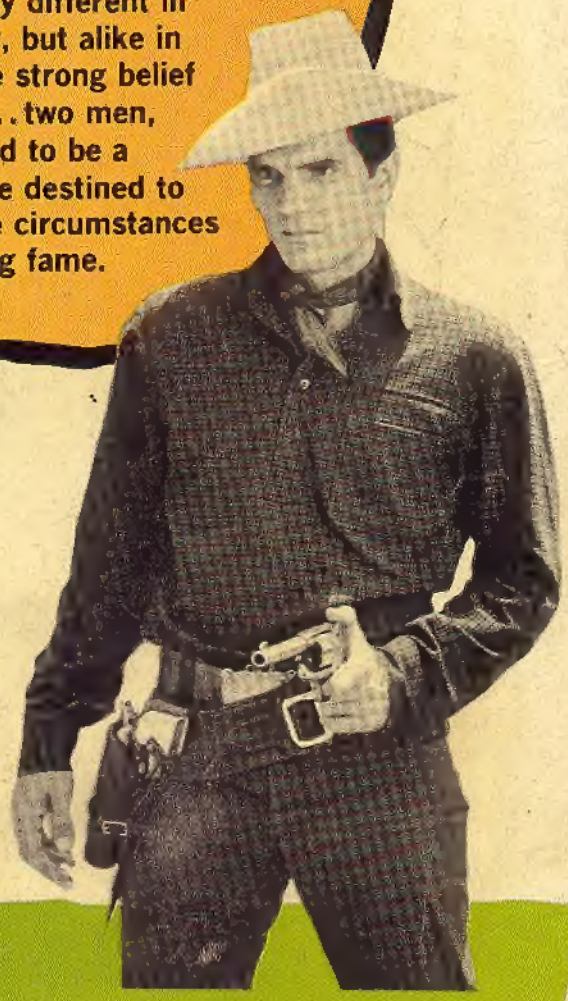
WALT DISNEY PRESENTS

TWO MEN... sharply different in background and personality, but alike in courage, faith, and in the strong belief of the rights of others... two men, neither of whom intended to be a lawman — both of whom were destined to join the law through strange circumstances and to earn undying fame.



Elfego Baca...

quiet, almost soft-spoken. Surviving a siege of eighty men, he became known as El Gato, the cat, "the man with nine lives." A man who fought for his people's rights under an unyielding creed: "If there is one to be buried and one to be tried, I'm going to be the one to be tried."

Texas John Slaughter...

a powerful man, with remarkable, penetrating eyes, which riveted the attention of others. A skillful trail blazer and an uncanny tracker, who unfailingly trailed his quarry to the end... and justice.